NORWAY

COUNTRY PROFILE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992**

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Division for Sustainable Development*
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NORWAY

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Note from the Secretariat: An effort has been made to present all country profiles within a common format, with an equal number of pages. However, where Governments have not provided information for the tables appended to Chapters 4 and 17, those tables have been omitted entirely in order to reduce the overall length of the profile and save paper. Consequently, there may be some minor inconsistencies among the formats of the different country profiles.

All statistics are rendered as provided by the respective Governments.

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ACRONYMS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMINWA	environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization

ACRONYMS (Cont'd)

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

OVERVIEW

(You may wish to use pages v and vi to briefly present your national position five years after UNCED)

The government of Norway aims at upholding the values of a just society based on an equitable distribution of wealth, individual freedom, and solidarity both nationally and internationally. The primary aims of our national policies are to secure full employment, to continue the transformation towards a more ecologically sustainable society, and to develop further the quality of life and the social security network that we already have.

Norway started the first assessment of its policies for sustainable development when the World Commission for Sustainable Development published "Our Common Future" in 1987. The Government's programme for Norway's follow-up of the Commission's report was presented in a White Paper to the Parliament in 1989. Initiatives were taken to integrate long-term sustainability into all sectors and levels of Government. Central authorities examined the sustainability of national policies and environment officers were employed in all municipalities to work in closer contact with local needs. New financial and legal policy instruments were introduced, including routines for assessing environmental components of the annual state budget and planning tools for matching the use of land and water to local requirements whilst preserving national interests. This work has been continued on the basis of a subsequent White Paper to the Parliament following the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

The years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro are marked by closer economic and political co-operation with the European Union, increased efficiency in the private sector, and a steady process of reforms and cost reductions in the public sector. Environmental policies have been strengthened by the introduction of further economic instruments and stricter rules for pollution from road transportation. Progress has been recorded: the recycling of household waste has increased from 9% to 20%, and over a 10-year period emissions of ozone-depleting substances have been reduced by between 65 and 100%. Since the 1980s sulphur emissions have been reduced by 76%, and the system of protected areas and national parks has nearly doubled in space. It is nevertheless clear that there are other trends still waiting to be reversed; threats to fish stocks are still recorded as well as rising total volumes of waste and CO2-emissions.

Norway has made a special effort to mobilise countries to make Chapter 4 of Agenda 21 on sustainable patterns of production and consumption operational. The most progressive companies have clearly taken on the challenge of eco-efficiency so as to achieve cleaner production, but global progress is lacking. The combined effects of rising populations, increasing levels of consumption and unsustainable technologies and production processes still threaten to overwhelm the world's carrying capacity.

Norway co-operates in many international forums to identify and focus the efforts and responsibilities of the industrialised world. The regional and global aspects of the environmental challenge are important for developed and developing countries alike, and act as a reminder of the mutual responsibilities shared by all countries. Norway aims to play an active role on the international arena through its commitment to environmental co-operation, international conflict resolution, human rights and development co-operation. Since UNCED, a strategy to ensure that environmental concerns form an integral part of all Norwegian ODA has been formulated. Funds have likewise been made increasingly available for the transfer of technology and capacity-building within the field of environment.

Agenda 21 gave governments a responsibility to mobilise local initiative and popular participation. As stakeholders in our common future, citizens and consumers have an important role to play in identifying needs as well as solutions. Small steps and simple solutions, if embraced by enough people, can complement technical innovations and elaborate policy frameworks. An active and environmentally conscious public is in this respect an asset as well as a prerequisite for sustainable development, and efforts to educate and to inform on green issues have been upgraded over recent years. The appreciation and respect for the values that lie in our natural and cultural heritage has likewise been promoted as a means of awareness-raising. An active and conscious commitment to sustainability on behalf of the population is likely to become even more important as the next generation of environmental policy instruments are increasingly expected to focus on measures aimed at prevention rather than reparation.

An open debate with interest groups, affected parties and other "watch-dog" organizations is a guarantee that decision-making will take local and/or sectoral demands into account. Legal provisions on environmental impact assessment that ensure the right to voice opinions on large projects in the planning stages is also a signal that groups and individuals hold both rights and duties.

Rapid globalization and the dismantling of trade and communication barriers brings with it a general sense of quantity coupled with a demand for quality. Most people no longer define "progress" in terms of indiscriminate consumption and "quality of life" pertains to more than purchasing power. Policy-makers are charged with having to translate global forces and the quest for economic growth into lasting human welfare gains. Governments operate in a sphere reaching from the local to the global, where the prerogatives of the global market and the demands of local communities exist side by side. Herein lie the challenges and the possibilities of the future. The Norwegian Government has as its declared ambition to create an ecologically sustainable society.

FACT SHEET

NAME OF COUNTRY: NORWAY

1. Name of Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).

- Committee for Sustainable Development
- National Committee for International Environmental Questions

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2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson:

2a. List of ministries and agencies involved: Committee for Sustainable Development: Prime Minister (Chair), Minister of Environment, Minister of Transport and Communications, and Minister of Petroleum and Energy.

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participating of academic and private sector bodies:

- Norwegian Association of Local Authorities
- Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry
- Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions

2c. Names of non-governmental organizations involved:

- The Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature

3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council: To discuss matters of common interest concerning environment policy.

4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries: Organisational chart showing the structure of the Norwegian environment administration on next page.

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AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)**

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	**High**	

STATUS REPORT: Norway has given high priority to the issues of trade and environment, and participates actively in the work of CSD, WTO, UNEP, UNCTAD and OECD. Norway considers the Committee on Trade and Environment in WTO to be crucial in the work on trade and environment. Norway attaches particular attention to the integration of environmental concerns into the trading system, and how to make trade and environmental policies mutually supportive. In this regard, trade and environment plays a role in the work to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. Norway underlines the importance of progress in this area and supports further work following the Singapore Ministerial Conference. Further analytical work should aim at fostering a common understanding of the problems among WTO members. Particular attention should be given to the special needs of developing countries and particularly the least-developed among them.

A national reference group for trade and environment related matters was established in 1992. This group consists of members from different sectors of national administrations, trade and industry organizations, trade unions, and environment and development organizations.

Norway continues to emphasize the importance of addressing the links between the environment and overall macroeconomic policies in the multilateral development banks. Norway also finances research related to this field in the World Bank.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment are mainly responsible for international co-operation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Aid and the Ministry of Industry and Trade are mainly responsible for international trade. The Department of Aid and the Norwegian Organisation for International Development Co-operation (NORAD) have particular responsibilities for establishing and maintaining sustainable trade with developing countries. A special department in NORAD is in charge of developing and enhancing import to Norway from developing countries.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Not applicable.

3. Major Groups: A national reference group for trade and environment related matters was established in 1992. This group consists of members from different sectors of national administration, trade and industry organizations, trade unions, and environment and development organizations.

4. Finance: Norway continues to promote debt reduction for the poorest countries as part of the policy to enable them to build up a sustainable economy. In 1995 the Norwegian Debt Relief Facility provided USD 41,22 million to different countries. However, in 1995 the proportionate allocation used for debt rescheduling through the Paris Club was less than in previous years. Reference is made to the table on statistical data below.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Norway makes continuous efforts to provide the poorest developing countries with concessional resources, through IDA 10 and the ongoing replenishment negotiations in the African Development Fund. Norway participates in IDA's Special Programme of Assistance (SPA), providing balance of payment support and debt relief to the poor and debt distressed Sub-Saharan African countries.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1992	1993	1995
Debt Relief/ Capital Reduction	291.151	89.712	261.300
- of which as the Paris Club contribution (1.000 NOK)	220.715	89.700	81.300
Replenishment of African Development Fund (1.000 NOK)	242.420	242.420	0
Balance of payment/ budget support to Africa (1.000 NOK)	289.686	177.193	96.840
Balance of payment/ budget support to Asia (1.000 NOK)	28.517	30.512	12.624
Balance of payment/ budget support to Latin America (1.000 NOK)	63.535	38.706	15.206

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT:

- Focus of national strategy

All inhabitants in Norway are secured an adequate standard of living by law. Absolute poverty does not exist. Poverty is therefore not an issue of major concern in Norway, nor is there any national definition of "poverty" or thereto related legislation. All Norwegians have access to primary health care, clean water and sanitation and primary education. Primary and secondary education and hospital services are free. There is cost-sharing for most primary health services.

- Highlight activities aimed at the poor and linkages to the environment

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.
NB: Developed countries, where domestic poverty alleviation is not a major concern may wish to briefly describe their position regarding global poverty alleviation.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1992	Latest 1995	
Unemployment (%)		5.2	6.0	4.9	
Population living in absolute poverty					
Public spending on social sector %					
Other data					

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	High	

STATUS REPORT:

- **National policy objectives/focus**
- **National targets**

Several of the activities mentioned in other chapters of this report will contribute to the change of consumption patterns, e.g. the voluntary agreements with industry on the responsibility for waste generated by their products (Ch. 21) and the CO_2 tax and measures for energy efficiency (Ch. 9). This chapter covers cross-sectoral issues.

There has been a national debate on sustainable consumption involving all sectors of the population. To undertake research on production and consumption the Research Council of Norway has established a research programme entitled "Sustainable Production and Consumption". The Research Council has also established a programme for research and documentation for a sustainable society called "ProSus", where one of the main research areas is the economy and consumption. There has also been work to develop indicators of sustainable consumption.

Green taxes ensure that consumers take the environmental costs of consumption of energy, materials and natural resources into account. Norway has introduced several green taxes, such as a CO_2 tax and a sulphur-tax. To strengthen collection and recycling systems, a tax is levied on packaging and on car wrecks. In December 1994, the Government formed a committee to consider how fiscal policy could act to the mutual benefit of the environment and increased employment. The committee's recommendations were presented in the Norwegian Official Report 1996:9.

In 1995 the Ministry of Environment established the GRIP Centre - the Norwegian Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption. GRIP collaborates with organizations in specific business areas to develop, field test and promote methods that increase eco-effectiveness (value added per unit environmental load). GRIP functions like a catalyst for more efficient use of energy and other resources. To ensure that GRIP's work reflects the views of a wide range of organizations, its board includes representatives from the Norwegian Confederation of Industry, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade and Service Businesses, the Norwegian Association of Local Authorities, The Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature and the State Pollution Control Authority. Examples of manuals that GRIP has published are "GRIP Build" on how to build eco-efficient commercial buildings; "GRIP Office" on how to increase eco-effectiveness in the office operation; and "GRIP Bicycle Tourism" on how to develop bicycle based tourism packages. GRIP also has projects aimed at increasing market shares for eco-efficient products (e.g. Ecoprofile for Buildings) and companies (e.g. a prize for good environmental reporting). "Naturlig Vis - Naturally Wise" is an environmental training scheme which aims at enabling employees to understand their company's environmental policy and make strategic and tactical decisions that support this policy. In order to measure the business community's response to Agenda 21, GRIP and the Norwegian School of Management have sent 1,500 businesses a questionnaire on attitudes towards environmental threats and how they are reacting to this. The analysis of the app. 500 answers were presented in December 1996 at a major conference on Sustainable Business - GRIP Forum 1996.

The objective of the Nordic eco-labelling scheme is to provide consumers with guidance to help them choose products and services that are less harmful to the environment, thereby encouraging product development which takes environmental factors as well as other quality considerations into account. Criteria for about 40 product groups have been developed so far. The scheme is administered by the Norwegian Foundation for Environmental Labelling, with subsidies from the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs.

EU's Council regulation 93/1836 concerning an Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) was implemented in 1995.

The Norwegian Government has initiated a three-year programme (1994-96) for Government procurement. Within this programme, the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the project "A green government procurement policy". The project has outlined a proposal for criteria and guidelines for a green government policy. The proposal covers environmental criteria for choice of products and suggests how these can be incorporated into procurement practices. This work has been followed up in a guidebook for procurement officers.

To develop ideas and advice on how families, local authorities, industry and NGOs can initiate change in consumption and production patterns themselves, a programme on "sustainable local communities" was established in 1995. The programme involves seven local communities in Norway.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs are the central authorities focusing on consumption issues. Recently, local authorities have involved themselves more with these issues. The Ministry of Finance has the primary responsibility for the economic policy.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: To create a basis for industrial growth and prevent environmental degradation, a programme for environmental technology was established in 1990 by the Ministry of Industry and Energy in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment (see Ch. 34).

3. Major Groups: 17 Norwegian NGOs have established a network called "The Environmental Home Guard" (EHG). Environmental NGOs, three major women's organizations, the scouts' confederations, the Church of Norway, the Norwegian Confederation of Sports and the Federation of Co-operative Housing and Building are among the member organizations. The aim is to motivate and educate people to make environmentally friendly choices, to reduce the use of non-renewable natural resources, reduce waste production, reduce energy consumption and eliminate the use of harmful substances. The strategy is to approach individuals and groups, and assist them in making new choices individually and collectively by providing information and other tools for change. There are currently 8 regional service bureaux, supported by a central secretariat. App. 70,000 individuals are "enlisted" in the EHG, and a large number of schools, public and private institutions, companies, municipalities and housing co-operatives are involved in EHG programmes. In the autumn 1996 the project "Green families" was launched. After a couple of months, more than 100 municipalities have taken initiatives to start networks of "green families" among their citizens. Other NGOs, like the "Future in our Hands" have carried out research projects on the possibilities of changing lifestyles and consumption patterns.

4. Finance: The GRIP Centre received about 1,5 million USD in 1996 from the Ministry of Environment. The Nordic product labelling scheme received 1,1 million USD in 1995 from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs. The Ministry of Industry and Energy and the Ministry of Environment have spent 40,7 million USD per year on the programme for environmental technology. The Government provides core funding (about 75% of the total budget) for the EHG. In 1996 this amounted to 5,4 million NOK.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: In 1994, Norway hosted an international Symposium on Sustainable Consumption. The summary report of the Symposium was presented to the CSD at its second session in May 1994. Norway hosted a Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Production and Consumption in February 1995. The recommendations were forwarded to the CSD and now constitute a part of the CSD work programme on sustainable production and consumption. Norway also hosted the OECD workshop "Sustainable Consumption and Production: Clarifying the Concepts" in July 1995, and the Green Goods conference on extended producers' responsibility in February 1996. Norway has strongly supported OECD's work on sustainable production and consumption. Norway also finances the IISD Internet pages on sustainable production and consumption. The results from conferences and meetings on this theme are being placed on Internet. There is also a discussion group. The address is: http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/consume/. Norway supports UNEP's industry office's work on cleaner production and cleaner production programmes in Eastern Europe. Norway co-operated closely with the Brazilian government, and supported the seminar: "Sustainable Production and Consumption - Patterns and Policy Implications" in Brasilia, November 1996.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS					
	1985	1990	1992	Latest 1995	
GDP per capita (current US$)	14.010	24.853	26.331	32.685	
Real GDP growth (%)	5.3	1.7	3.3	5.6	
Annual energy consumption per capita (Kg. of oil equivalent per capita)	3.923[1]	3.929	3.925[2]	4.117	
Motor vehicles in use per 1000 inhabitants	424.7	458.1	460.5	475.3	
Other data [1] = 1989 [2] = 1993					

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Government policies affecting consumption and production.

1. Goals and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with a (X) those agents which your Governments policies are meant most to influence.

Agents / Goals	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	Households	Civil society
Material efficiency	X				
Energy efficiency:					
Transport	X			X	X
Housing	X	X	X	X	X
Other					
Waste:					
Reduce	X	X		X	
Reuse	X			X	
Recycle	X	X		X	X

Comments:

2. Means & Measures and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with an (R) those agents who assume primary responsibility for any of the policy measures indicated; indicate with an (I) the agents for which the impact is expected to be especially significant.

Means & Measures / Agents	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	House-holds	Civil Society
Improving understanding and analysis					
Information and education (e.g., radio/TV/press)		R	R	I	I
Research	I	I	RI	I	I
Evaluating environmental claims	I	I	R		I
Form partnerships	I	I	R		
Applying tools for modifying behaviour					
Community based strategies	I	IR	R	I	R
Social incentives/disincentives (e.g., ecolabelling)	I	I	R	I	I
Regulatory instruments	I	R	R	I	I
Economic incentives/disincentives	I		R	I	
Voluntary agreements of producer responsibility for aspects of product life cycle	I	I	R	I	
Provision of enabling facilities and infrastructure (e.g., transportation alternatives, recycling)	I	R	R	I	
Procurement policy	I	RI	R		
Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing performance	I		R		
Action campaign	I	I	R	I	
Indicators	I	I	RI	I	

Comments:

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Not Applicable

STATUS REPORT: National debate on the linkages between population and environmental issues has been initiated both at governmental level, in Parliament, and with the public at large. The government believes that population growth and fertility levels are satisfactory.

Norway does not have a distinct population policy. Norway has a spacial ministry with responsibility for policy on children, gendre and family issues. One of the most important aims is to enable parents to combine family life with participation in working life. Since the mid-eighties and through 1990 the fertility rate in Norway has increased. After 1990 the fertility rate has been stable. The present fertility rate is 1,87 (1995). This may possibly be a result of measures which aim at reconciling family responsibilities and work outside the home.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The bodies most directly concerned with demographic issues are: the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Norwegian population policy covers environmental linkages, the legal basis for which is provided in the Health Act.

2. Capacity-building/Technology Issues: Not Applicable

3. Major Groups: The needs and rights of women are emphasized in national population strategies.

4. Finance: Please refer to "Regional/International Co-operation" below.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Norwegian financial support for population programmes has been stable throughout the last decade. Approximately 4% of the official development aid (ODA) is annually allocated to such programmes. Multilateral development assistance is provided through UNFPA and IPPF. Bilateral assistance is provided through NORAD.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1993	Latest 1995	
Population (Thousands) mid-year estimates	4.241	4.312	4.391	
Surface area (Km^2)	323.877	323.877	323.877	
Population density (people/Km^2)	13	13	14	
Annual rate of increase (1990-1993)		0.6		
Population related support to developing countries (1.000 NOK)	Not Available	Not Available	129.725	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	High	

STATUS REPORT: Activities at the national level: Norwegian policies and measures in the area of human health are being based on the principles and tenets of the strategy "Health for all by the year 2000", adopted by the Member States of the WHO.

In March 1988 the Government of Norway submitted to the Parliament a White Paper on national health policy towards the year 2000, which outlined the strategy for health and identified priority areas, including health promotion and prevention of diseases as well as community health care. Subsequently, a number of policy documents concerning health and health services have been adopted with a view to translating the strategy into action. In April 1993 the Government submitted to the Parliament identified the challenges in respect of health promotion and prevention of diseases in a White Paper. The importance of the following areas were highlighted in particular: psychosocial problems, musculoskeletal disorders, accidents and injuries, and asthma, allergy and indoor-environment related problems. Action plans have been established for each of these priority areas. These plans have two strategic features in common: they focus on the local community and they involve cooperation across professional and sectoral divisions. Achieving the national goal in these areas will also imply interministerial cooperation.

Causes of disease and primary risk factors to which the Government continues to give priority include tobacco, food and nutrition, and alcohol.

With regard to control of infectious diseases, recent decades have seen a remarkable success, due to general improvement in living conditions, development of effective drugs and vaccines, and comprehensive vaccination programmes. However, development of resistance to antibiotics among certain pathogenic micro-organisms prolongs periods of illness and poses a threat to human health.

Another challenge is the potential health hazards caused by radioactive pollution. Possible sources of radioactive pollution not far from Norway include nuclear power stations, nuclear powered vessels, facilities for handling and storage of nuclear waste, and nuclear weapons.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and the Directorate of Public Health are the main structures responsible for promoting and protecting public health.

2. Capacity-building/Technology Issues: No information.

3. Major Groups: The main objective of Norwegian assistance to the health sector is to improve primary health services and it is targeted primarily towards women, mothers and children. Norway stresses the importance of reproductive health as part of an integral approach.

4. Finance: Please refer to "Progress/Status" above.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: A substantial part of Norwegian support to protection and promotion of public health is provided as multilateral aid channelled through UN agencies and international NGOs. Norway is one of the major donor to UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, and IPPF.

Norway supports efforts to strengthen sustainability of primary health care by promoting greater local participation, governance and funding of health services. Norway also emphasizes the responsibility of cooperating governments to secure equitable access to health services for all. Support to HIV-AIDS related services has been given particular attention in Norwegian development assistance to the health sector. To enhance this support, a special budget line for HIV-AIDS projects has been included in the development co-operation budget.

Bilateral support to health programmes are provided to a number of Norway's main partner countries, e.g. Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Botswana, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Bilateral assistance has also been provided for three specific programmes for control of communicable diseases: tuberculosis in Mozambique and Madagascar, leprosy in India and immunization programmes in India and Nepal. Approximately 20% of the assistance given to Norwegian and local NGOs is also for primary health programmes.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1994
Life expectancy at birth Male Female		 73.34[1] 79.85[1]	77 (M+F)
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)		Not avail.	6
Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births)		3	Not avail.
Access to sanitation services (% of population)		100	Not avail.
International Co-operation: Total health related bilateral aid (1.000 NOK) HIV-AIDS related support (1.000 NOK)		 Not avail. Not avail.	 538.274 94.589
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: The Norwegian national report to HABITAT II ; "From Reconstruction to Environmental Challenges", provides a comprehensive overview of the present situation in Norwegian human settlements. It also presents the future challenges in the area and governmental policies to meet these challenges.

The main goal in Norwegian housing policy has for many years been that everyone should live in satisfactory homes in a good residential environment. This goal has been successfully implemented. Norway has gradually developed a very high standard of housing for most of the population. The present housing coverage is 412 dwellings per 1000 inhabitants, the average floor space per dwelling is about 110 m^2, or 43 m^2 per person. 2/3 of all households have 4 or more rooms. A majority, i.e. 84%, own their own home, either privately or through a co-operative. Socially subsidized housing accounts for a small share of the Norwegian housing market, only 4% of the housing stock. The detached single family house is still the ideal type of dwelling for many Norwegians, and 60% of the population still live in this kind of home.

Housing consumption has increased considerably over the past two decades, and the average household spends more than 1/4 of its total household expenditures on housing. Homelessness is practically non-existent, but 8% of the population still live under "crowded" conditions. Crowding is measured in terms of the number of rooms or m^2 per person in a housing unit. Some groups, especially young people, refugees and other disadvantaged groups, are faced with problems when establishing themselves in the housing market, mainly due to high costs. The existing housing stock is not sufficiently adapted to the needs of the elderly and the handicapped, and is partly of an unsatisfactory technical standard. There is a tendency toward the accumulation of these problems and other problems connected with living conditions in some cities.

These problems constitute the main challenges in the housing sector in Norway. To ensure effective utilization and improvement of existing housing - and urban renewal - will be more important than new construction. The strategies and measures to be used to meet these challenges, are manifold. Economic measures such as subsidies, incentives and taxation etc. are utilized. In 1996, the housing finance system was adjusted to meet the challenges better. A new system of grants was established to stimulate better housing and environmental quality in both new buildings and in renovation of old ones.

The Planning and Building Act is the most important cross-sectoral legal instrument for achieving sustainable human settlement development. It stipulates requirements as regards technical standards, design, administrative procedures, and lays down rules for integrated physical, social, cultural and economic planning. The Building Regulations define minimum standards for safety, health and the environment. Pursuant to the Planning and Building Act, the Government can lay down national policy guidelines which shall apply to planning in the country as a whole. National Policy Guidelines for Coordinated Land-use and Transport Planning includes instructions on which considerations and solutions that should receive priority so as to achieve better co-ordination of use of land, the pattern of development and the resulting need for transport. Environmental impact assessments should be carried out for major projects.

In a decentralized administrative system like the Norwegian - where the municipalities have a high degree of autonomy in implementing national policy - research and development, experimental projects and information are important instruments in the efforts to achieve more sustainable settlements. In 1993, the central authorities initiated co-operation with five Norwegian cities in the development of "environmental cities". The goal is to arrive at models for sustainable urban development, while laying the foundation for more jobs, and improving both the environment for children and adolescents and living conditions in the cities. The main idea is to develop a holistic approach through which the measures to alleviate many problems connected with living conditions and the environment can be integrated. The environmental city projects are intended to provide a set of examples, as well as guidelines on sustainable urban development, suggestions for better instruments for promoting sustainable urban development, and better methods for describing the state of the environment in Norwegian cities, e.g. by using indicators.

Status Cont'd

The six following areas are given priority: (i) coordinated land use and transport planning, with priority to environmentally sound transport, environmental measures and densification in building zones; (ii) strengthening the city centre as a meeting place for shopping, business and culture; (iii) thriving local communities with good residential areas, and local services which will ease people's everyday life and provide a better environment for children and adolescents; (iv) natural areas, the aquatic environment and green areas should be safeguarded for purposes of recreation and to preserve biological diversity; (v) waste management, sorting of waste by source and recycling of wastes from households and from commercial and industrial activities; and (vi) good design of the physical environment through protection and development of the building environment and public places, and by preserving the various elements of the cultural heritage and making these more accessible to the public.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Planning and Building Act (1985, amended later) provides a framework for county and municipal level plans which are revised regularly by the local and regional authorities. When these plans conflict with national, regional and environmental policy goals they are reviewed by the Ministry of Environment which makes a final decision in consultation with the other ministries concerned. The Government can also lay down National Policy Guidelines to guide the planning processes at local and regional levels.

The Norwegian State Housing Bank is the central authorities' main instrument for implementing the housing policy. The Bank administers housing loans and grants, and disseminates information on housing construction and housing environment. Through a close co-operation with the Housing Bank, the municipalities play a key role in implementing housing policy at local level. The municipalities have a special obligation for providing shelter for disadvantaged groups.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: A special programme for training and information has been carried out to strengthen qualifications and capacity for planning at the local and regional level. Specific research programmes have been established in co-operation with consumer and research institutions in order to provide a basis for evaluating the efforts so far, and to improve the basic data. A special effort is being made to improve indoor climate. A comprehensive, publicly initiated programme of education, "House and Health", aims at raising the level of knowledge in this area.

3. Major Groups: The co-operative movement plays an important role in Norwegian housing policy. The Federation of Norwegian Co-operative Building and Housing Association is one of the largest interest organizations in Norway. Furthermore the cities involved in the research projects are importance participants, among these the 5 cities participating in the "Environmental Cities Programme".

4. Finance: Financial resources for promoting sustainable development must be obtained from several sources. Economic measures such as subsidies, incentives, taxation etc. are utilized. In the housing area, financing through the State Housing Bank is central. Almost 2/3 of Norwegian dwellings are financed by the Bank. In 1996, the housing finance system was adjusted to better meet the challenges. A new system of grants was established to stimulate better housing and environmental quality in both new building and renovation.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: In addition to the follow-up of the Habitat-II process, i.a. by participating in UNCHS, ECE Committee on Human Settlement and OECD, Norway also takes part in the "International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives" (ICLEI). Furthermore, some Norwegian counties and municipalities have established partnerships with counties and municipalities in the Baltic Region. Norwegian assistance to rural development in developing countries is primarily aimed at improving economic and social living conditions and at strengthening demöcratic local institutions in rural areas. Programmes including institutional development, agriculture, rural water supply and sanitation, rural road rehabilitation and district development are given financial and technical support in a.o. Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nicaragua.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1990	1995	
Urban population in % of total population	72.3	73.2	
Annual rate of growth of urban population (%)	0.7	0.7	
Largest city population (in % of total population)	16.1	Not avail.	
International Co-operation: Total Support to rural settlement development in developing countries (1.000 NOK) Bilateral assistance to rural settlement development in developing countries (1.000 NOK)	 Not avail. Not avail.	 760.440 646.156	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: Norwegian environmental plans are integrated into general economic plans at the national level. To achieve this integration, the Ministry of Finance asks all ministries to produce a statement on specific environmental issues every year when preparing their State Budget proposal. Each ministry is asked to describe the environmental challenges in its own areas of responsibility, and how certain measures would help to solve the environmental problems. The ministries are also asked to state the size of the allocations for environmental purposes proposed in the specified budget areas for the following year. In the 1996 and the 1997 budgets, these expenditures were divided among the same budget areas as used by the Ministry of Environment in its own budget proposal. These statements are put together and published in a document called the "Green Book", which is used by the Government and the Parliament when discussing and deciding upon the yearly budgets. The interministerial processes leading up to the Green Book are important to secure that the policies of the Government will contribute to sustainable development.

The Long-term Programme describes the development planned by the Government for the next four years, and also outlines the perspectives for the next ten years. Environmental issues are integrated into the programme.

There are also a number of interdepartmental plans and working groups which have been established to review and co-ordinate important areas of work, i.a. the Interdepartmental Biodiversity Plan and the Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate and Acid Rain.

Research and development on strategic environmental impact assessment of plans, programmes and politics are emphasized. Since 1995, the environmental impacts of all new legislation and policy decisions must be assessed taking into consideration sustainable development aspects. According to a revised administrative order of 1994, not only the administrative and economic effects, but also the environmental effects of all proposals submitted to the King in Council, the Cabinet and the Parliament, have to be assessed by the ministry responsible for the proposal. The Ministry of Environment must be consulted in the preparations.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment has initiated a project in which the experiences of a number of municipalities with regard to the use of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) principles in land use planning are collected and analyzed. The Ministry, in co-operation with other ministries, is also encouraging the application of EIA principles to sectoral programmes for i.a. transport, energy and agriculture. A research project has been established to look into current practice in the transport sector and propose improvements.

The Provisions and related Regulations on EIA for certain projects, as contained in the Planning and Building Act of 1989, entered into force in 1990. Since then, about 200 projects have gone through the EIA process. These provisions are presently being revised to meet the requirements of EC-directive 85/337 on EIA for projects. The forthcoming provisions are expected to further improve the integration of the EIA procedure with the overall procedure of land use planning and thereby strengthen the possibility to take into account environmental aspects in the decision-making process.

The recognition of the geographically limited focus of national EIA legislation has caused an increasing interest in EIA of projects likely to have transboundary impacts and the handling of such impacts. The work under the UN ECE on the Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) will become an important arena for preventing and handling such impacts when the convention enters into force, which is likely to happen in 1997. The obligations under the Convention will be included in the Norwegian EIA legislation during 1997. Norway will also host the first meeting of the parties under the Convention.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet): The Planning and Building Act facilitates co-ordination of land use planning at the national, county and municipal levels, and provides a basis for decisions on the use and protection of the environment. The Act is one of the legal bases for integrating environment, land use and development in decision-making.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Interest in both land use planning and EIA, as well as the integration of these two branches, among scientists and educational institutions has increased. A national EIA Research Centre and a Network Centre on Planning Research have been established at the Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research during the last few years.

3. Major Groups: The Norwegian provisions on EIA provide comprehensive rules for public participation during the two stages of the EIA process. During the notification stage (which precedes the EIA stage) the general public, as well as voluntary and industrial organizations and the authorities concerned, are given the opportunity to comment on the notification and the draft study programme, and to propose topics to be further addressed in the environmental impact statement. Furthermore, public participation - also in the form of a public meeting - takes place when the draft statement is published, but before a decision on the proposed project is made. The comments received during the public participation procedures shall be enclosed when the notification or the environmental impact statement is transmitted to the decision-making authority. A copy of the letter of approval, which is sent by the competent authority to the developer to finalize the EIA process, is also forwarded to all persons and bodies that have made comments.

4. Finance: The most important economic plan-documents presented by the Norwegian Government to the Parliament at regular intervals are:

- The Long-Term Programme - presented every fourth year.
- The National Budget - presented every year.
- The State budget - presented every year.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: The Ad-hoc group on EIA under the Nordic Council of Ministers is co-operating and proposing research projects on several aspects related to EIA in the Nordic Region, including the neighboring Baltic countries and Russia, among these the use of EIA principles in preparing plans, programmes and politics. Furthermore Norway is actively participating in the work under-taken by the UN ECE on the Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	High	

The Montreal Protocol (1987) was ratified on 24 June 1988.
The London Amendments (1990) were ratified on 18 November 1991.
The Copenhagen Amendments (1992) were ratified on 3 September 1993.
The Vienna Adjustment was ratified (1995).
The latest report to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat was prepared in 1996.

The UNFCCC was ratified on 9 July 1993.
The latest communication of information related to implementation was submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in 1994 and the next is to be submitted in 1997. A report on greenhouse gas emissions in Norway 1990-94 was submitted to the secretariat in 1996.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter National legislation to protect the atmosphere has generally been reviewed and revised in light of Agenda 21.

Norway does not produce ozone depleting substances. Norway phased out the consumption of halons on 1 January 1994 and the consumption of CFCs and carbon tetrachloride on 1 January 1995. The consumption of methyl chloroform and HBFC was phased out on 1 January 1996. Methyl bromide is going to be phased out by 2010 and HCFC by 2015. Emissions of greenhouse gases totalled 51,000 gigagrammes (Gg) in CO_2 equivalents in 1994, which is roughly the same as in 1989 and 1990. This total level of emissions does not take into account the increased uptake of CO_2 stemming from the enhancement of sinks, implying that Norway's net contribution to climate change has been reduced since the turn of the present decade.

In 1991, Norway introduced a CO_2-tax which at present is applied to sources of 60% of Norwegian CO_2 emissions, but covers almost all energy related emissions. Exemptions from the CO_2-tax intended to preserve international competitiveness relate to mineral oils used in air transport, ships engaged in foreign trade, the North Sea supply fleet and the national fishing fleet, as well as to CO_2-emisions associated with the production of steel, aluminum, cement and concrete. In 1995, the Government submitted to the parliament a report on the Norwegian policy to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx). This "White Paper" introduces measures which enhance the national climate change policy programme. These include measures which aim at improving energy efficiency, promoting renewable energy sources, introducing voluntary agreements in industrial sectors not currently subject to the CO_2-tax, setting requirements for methane (CH_4) recovery from landfills and promoting activities implemented jointly in the pilot phase (as decided by the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change). The White Paper also reiterates the important principle in Norway's climate policy that all policies and measures at both national and international levels should be cost-effective.

Norway will maintain its current high CO_2-tax level, while adopting a more comprehensive approach to combating climate change. In the policy area, there is a joint programme involving the Norwegian oil industry and the Norwegian authorities. Voluntary agreements with the industry limit emissions of greenhouse gases that are not subject to the CO_2-tax. The Government gives high national priority to the use of more energy-efficient and environmentally safe technologies in industry, transport, energy production and to Environmental Impact Assessments. The Government also continues to maintain and strengthen the system of grants to new renewable energy sources, such as bio-energy.

The Government supports climate- and ozone-related research. Important studies on the effects of ultraviolet radiation and ambient air pollution have been undertaken. A substantial amount of climate-related research is carried out to improve understanding of atmospheric processes and the relationship between the oceans and the atmosphere and between economic processes and their impacts on climate change.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The national institution responsible for "Protection of the Atmosphere" is the Ministry of Environment which is a member of the National Co-ordination Mechanism for Sustainable Development. An Inter-ministerial Steering Committee On Climate Change and Acid Rain was established in 1991 to co-ordinate Norway's policies on these issues at the national and international level, and to ensure a cross-sectoral and cost-effective approach in the identification and implementation of these policies.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Research and Development of technology, especially in the energy sector and industrial production sector, is supported by the Government and the industry.

3. Major Groups: Four major Norwegian environmental NGOs (Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature, Nature and Youth, Greenpeace Norway and The Future In Our Hands) have formed an alliance on climate change issues.

4. Finance: Norway established a National Fund in 1991, mainly for climate change purposes, with an annual budget of NOK 30-75 mil-lion. The Fund is in part used for contributions to the GEF and in part for the national programme on Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ).

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Norway is committed to the process of strengthening the UNFCCC by adoption of new and legally binding commitments, based on equitable burden-sharing. It is a Norwegian aim to actively contribute to the development of practicable and effective policy instruments at the international level. As part of this ambition, Norway has co-funded three pilot projects on AIJ in co-operation with the World Bank (in Mexico, Poland and Burkina Faso), and funded a pilot project on a bilateral basis in Costa Rica. Further co-operation on AIJ is under preparation.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1994	
CO_2 emissions (eq. million tons)	33.9	35.5	37.2	
SO_x "	141	54	35	
NO_x "	184	230	225	
CH_4 "	264	290	293.4	
Consumption of ozone depleting substances (Tons)	Not avail.	2.639	1.439	
Expenditure on air pollution abatement in US$ equivalents (million)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	**High**	
STATUS REPORT: The Planning and Building Act is an important instrument of land use planning, and thus, of environmental and natural resource policy. Regional planning to ensure sustainable land use management is a main task at both the county and municipal level. It is important that planning at both levels includes goals and programmes, both for areas where there have previously been little development (coastal zone, rivers and large mountain areas) and for more developed areas (towns and urbanized areas) to find appropriate forms of multiple land use. In accordance with the Planning and Building Act, the county councils are responsible for preparing a county plan, a comprehensive plan outlining development activities within a sustainable framework. The plan shall lay down guidelines for the use of land and natural resources in the county concerning matters that will have major impacts beyond the boundaries of a municipality. Each municipality is obliged to prepare a municipal master plan. The plan consists of a long term component and a short term component. The long term component consists of goals for the development of the municipality, sector planning and a part referring to land use. The land use part, which is legally binding, is to be reconsidered for major revision once each election period (which is 4 years).The short term component comprises an integrated programme of action for the sectoral activities during the next few years. This part is not legally binding, but provides the political framework for the municipality to establish priority between activities. The municipality also prepares detailed plans (local development plans) with associated provisions which regulate the use and protection of land, watercourses, sea areas, buildings and the external environment in specific areas in a municipality. Both the county plan and the municipal master plan must be within the framework of the national guidelines. The integrated approach is ensured by the fact that the plans shall "co-ordinate the physical, economic, social and cultural planning within their areas". The county governor shall control that the policy and propositions are within national goals concerning economy, nature conservation and pollution. In some fields national standards which influence land use are set. An example is noise pollution, which affects spatial planning. Generally speaking, biodiversity can not be saved e.g. by preserving areas. The problems must be solved within a "sustainable use"-framework, meaning by use of the Planning and Building Act. This requires integration of environmental and land use planning. We also rely on the system of environmental impact assessments, for larger scale projects. Information and development programmes play an important part in bringing about change at the local level. The EIA-system, as well as encouraging public participation through the planning system, are important contributions to local and regional involvement. Local and regional authorities have received extensive responsibilities in the process of planning and managing the land resources. The Ministry of Environment can overrule plans or projects, if they conflict with national goals. These topics have recently been developed and are discussed in a white paper on regional planning and land use policy to be presented in March 1997. This white paper deals, among other topics, with planning in mountain areas, coastal zones, rivers and cultural landscapes, and gives guidelines for reducing transport through spatial planning.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The body primarily responsible is the Ministry of Environment (the Department for Regional Planning and Resource Management) which is also a member of National Co-ordination mechanisms for Sustainable Development. Legislation covering the above is: the Planning and Building Act (1985) amended in 1993 and being reviewed at present. The central authorities, the counties and the municipalities have different responsibilities when it comes to land use planning.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The Ministry of Environment has recently started a monitoring programme. The purposes is to monitor the land use development in vulnerable areas and to provide the planning authorities in the municipalities with improved documentation on important indicators for area qualities on which the planning process is to be based. The programme focuses on several aspects as area monitoring in the coastal zone, area statistics in cities and towns, satellite mapping and area information systems in municipalities and counties. The aspects all have in common the use of geographical information technology such as administrative electronic registers, digital map data or geographical information systems (GIS).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment has recently published two documents containing guidelines for how to prepare municipal master plans and local development plans. These guidelines are implemented and followed up in educational programmes running in every county in 1996 and 1997. The main target-groups in these programmes are municipal authorities and regional governmental authorities. The main goal of these educational programmes is to ensure a basic level of knowledge on land use planning at regional and municipal level according to the legal framework and national policy guidelines.

3. Major Groups: The Planning and Building Act decides that "affected individual persons or groups" shall be given an opportunity to participate actively in the planning process. This may be done through meetings with the parties involved, by direct consultations or by actively involving individuals or groups to provide input into the planning process. This involvement may even imply the active participation of the local community in developing the plan. Planning authorities are also obliged to inform actively about the planning at an early stage in the planning process. When a draft plan has been prepared, the existence of the plan shall be announced publicly and the draft plans made available for inspection by the public.

The Ministry of Environment is the main planning authority at national level. Decisions are made after consulting other ministries involved. Through policy guidelines and monitoring the planning process at county and municipal levels, the Ministry is responsible for securing that planning takes place within the broad framework of national priorities. Thus county and affected state expert authorities participate to inform about national and regional interests. In addition they are given the right to object to a proposed plan based on consideration of national interests. Participation is the principle – objections are a safety valve.

Provided there are no objections from the county or affected state expert authorities, the plans may be finally approved by the municipal council. In the case of objections, the plan shall be sent to the Ministry of Environment for final decision unless the municipality takes the objections into account.

4. Finance: Financing is within the ordinary budgets of the municipalities and the county municipalities. The planning authorities at each level are responsible for financing the plans. Private proposals for local development plans are financed by the proposer.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Norway participates in the Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) under the Council of Europe. This organisation deals with planning guidelines at the European level, and are among others working on charters for rural- and mountain development, as well as a European spatial development perspective. Norway also takes part in inter-regional co-operation on spatial planning in the North Sea Region, within the EU-initiative Interreg IIc (initiative to help restore regional balance, foster transnational co-operation and improve the impact of Community policies on spatial development). Among other topics covered is coastal zone planning, urban land use planning and management of natural resources.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT: Combating deforestation, as well as promoting reforestation and afforestation, has been an important issue in Norway since the turn of the century. The need for forest conservation and sustainable forest management is fully recognized. The current forest policy and legislation requires reforestation, and forestry authorities are empowered to take action to prevent logging and other forest operations which may lead to permanent deforestation.

The definition of forest: Forest consists of coniferous trees (height > 3 meters), and the distance between trees must not exceed 30 meters. "Productive forest" consists of an area with a potential production capacity of at least 1 m3/ha/year.

The latest national forest survey was started in 1994/1995. The survey covers several features: area of productive forest, amount of timber resources, parameters descriptive of composition of vegetation, environmental condition, history of forest establishment, and maintenance. Deforestation is not considered a problem in Norway today. Loss of forest occurs mostly due to urbanization and encroaching agriculture, but it is not considered to be at a level which reduces the forest area. Air pollution has a moderate impact on forest damage while acidification and natural causes have only a light impact. Due to financial incentives by the Forest Trust Fund, active reforestation is carried out in all logged areas, through either planting or natural re-vegetation.

Forest productivity and tolerance to environmental stress has been improved by: tree breeding; development of seed technology and seed procurement networks; inv itro techniques (laboratory cultivation); and in situ/ex situ conservation. The following issues have been fully addressed by the government: public education in forestry has increased; research needs have been reviewed; existing forest programmes have been analyzed; multiple roles/values of forests have been recognized; land classification and land use surveys have been accomplished; small scale forest based industries have been promoted; information exchange linkages have been improved; national plans for planted forests have been created; investment analysis and feasibility studies have been made; and social, economical and ecological values have been integrated into national economic accounting systems. The government has also addressed the following issues: forest extension service; post graduate education in forestry; indigenous knowledge of forests; geographic information on forests; remote sensing; and eco-tourism. The main obstacles to effective reforestation are the competitive vegetation and conditions, especially low temperatures.

A parliament initiated working group is evaluating forest carbon sink and how Norwegian forest policies may supplement other national climatic measures without creating environmental conflicts.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Forestry) is primarily responsible for the forestry sector and related legislation. It is a member of the National Co-ordination Mechanism for Sustainable Development. The Ministry of Environment, the Norwegian Forest Research Institute and the Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory are also involved. The Forestry Act is the main legal framework for forestry. The other laws regulating the forestry sector are: the Nature Conservation Act (provisions for conservation of forests); the Plan and Building Act (1985); and the Act of Forestry and Forest Protection (1965), amended in 1993. The goal of the forest policy and plans is to create a balance between production aspects and other values of forests. Forest policies and ministerial level decisions are implemented by the Department of Forestry and by regional authorities at the local level.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

The number of professional staff in the forestry sector:	1980	1990	1996	
Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture	23	24	22	
Norwegian Forest Research Institute	110	110	141	(+36 max. 1 year engagements)
The Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory	—	80	120	(+17 max. 1 year engagements)

At present, institutional capacity is satisfactory. Goals for strengthening research in the field of sustainable forestry may have a positive influence on institutional capacity. There are approximately 300 foresters working at county and municipal level. The number of graduating foresters at upper university level each year is 35-40.

3. Major Groups: Major groups operate as advisory participants at the national planning level and at local levels. A 3-year project, with representatives from forest owner organizations, forest industries, trade unions, forest extension services, the consumers' organisation, NGOs and the government, has the objective of contributing to basing the roundwood supply to the Norwegian forest industry on environmentally sustainable forestry.

4. Finance:

The budgets of the main institutions in the forestry sectors (in millions USD):

	1980	1990	1996
Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture	53	59	37*
Norwegian Forest Research Institute	3,95	8,36	10,7
The Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory	-	5,46	7,45

* Includes USD 36 mill. as national forestry support programme.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: The following international/regional organizations and bilateral programmes are active: the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), the Norwegian Forest Society, the Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory, NORAGRIC and FORINDECO. These organizations participate in bilateral and multilateral projects (FTPP) reviewing national forest strategies and promoting sustainable forest management in several developing countries. Forest authorities, the organizations of forest owners and the industry sector seek to promote globally sustainable use of forests and forest products. The Norwegian government has signed the International Tropical Timber Agreement.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1985	1990	Latest 1995	
Forest Area (Km^2)	114,000	120,000	120,000	
Protected forest area	Not avail.	Not avail.	2,016	
Roundwood production (solid volume of roundwood without bark in mill m^3)	10.4a	11.8	9.3	
Deforestation rate (Km^2/annum)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Reforestation rate (Km^2/annum)	200	317	230	
Number of people earning their living from the forestry sector	65,500	45,000	30,000	
National income from the forestry sector in % of GNP	2,66	1.99	1.71	
Area logged (km^2)	410	630	570	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	**Not Applicable**	
STATUS REPORT: **The International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa was signed in 1994 and ratified in 1996.** **Additional comments relevant to this chapter:** Norway is not an affected country partner under the Convention to Combat Desertification. Norway's role concerning the Convention is as a donor to affected developing countries. These contributions are channeled through multilateral channels as well as regular bilateral aid programmes. Additionally, activities implemented jointly to combat climate change may yield benefits in terms of land use and protection.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information.

3. **Major Groups:** No information.

4. **Finance:** No information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1980	1990	Latest 199_	
Land affected by desertification (Km^2)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: The mountain region covers an area of app. 155.000 km^2 or nearly half of the Norwegian mainland. However, the relative economic importance of the mountain regions to the country is less than 1% and the number of people living in these areas is very small. The most important livelihoods are farming, forestry and tourism. A number of social, economic and cultural incentives have been made for farmers or mountain communities to commit themselves to conservation of mountain areas and to remain in these areas:

- funds (compensation) to land-owners for establishing special nature conservation areas
- grants to farmers to maintain and develop cultural landscapes
- grants to farmers to compensate for damage caused by predators
- grants for research

Large mountain areas are used for or affected by several types of encroachments linked to road constructions, hydroelectric schemes, power-line corridors, industrial and other commercial projects, and housing. In this century, areas with a wilderness-like character have been reduced drastically. Such areas, located more than 5 km from a major technical encroachment, constituted 12% of the country in 1994, compared with 48% inn 1990 (Svalbard and Jan Mayen are not included). Many of the wilderness-like areas that are left are located in the mountain regions and in the northern part of Norway.

In an international context, Norway has a particular responsibility for preserving a representative selection of its areas of fjords, coasts and mountains. For instance, the Norwegian mountains represent the natural habitat in Europe for the original wild mountain reindeers, and Norway has therefore a special responsibility for conserving this species. The Government has designated large continuous areas of natural habitat as one of the main targets of its land use policy as regards natural resources.

The Nature Conservation Act has been and will in the years to come be one of the major legal instruments to secure biodiversity, also in mountain regions. On national level, large mountain areas are already secured through the existing Norwegian national park system. According to a new, approved Action Plan for National Parks, the protection of mountain areas will be extended significantly towards the year 2008.

One of the main tasks in regional planning is to ensure sustainable land use management in such areas. National and regional protection plans pursuant to the Nature Conservation Act are important, but they are not sufficient on their own to achieve Norway's environmental policy goals of maintaining viable ecosystems and biological production and diversity.

In recent years, counties have begun to draw up joint land use plans for several large mountain regions in southern Norway. Work is in progress for Setesdal Vesthei, the Dovrefjell area and the eastern Hardangervidda. A joint land use plan for the Rondane mountains in Hedmark and Oppland counties was approved by the central authorities as early as 1992. Several of these plans involve coordinated land use management pursuant to the Planning and Building Act in the peripheral zone and protection plans pursuant to the Nature Conservation Act in the core area.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The bodies mainly responsible for sustainable mountain development are the Ministry of Environment, the Directorate for Nature Management and Statsskog (State-Owned Land and Forest Company) at the national level, the County Governor and the county municipalities at regional level and the municipalities at local level. In addition, there are several other sectoral institutions at each of the three levels that have interests in such areas and participate in the decision-making processes.

Legislation related to Mountain areas: the Nature Conservation Act, the Mountain Act, the Planning and building Act, the Wildlife Act, the Pollution Control Act, the Cultural Heritage Act, the Act Relating to Salmonids and Freshwater Fish, the Open-Air Recreation Act and the Act Relating to Motorised Traffic in Marginal Land and Water Courses.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: In a special report, The Directorate for Nature Management has presented a mapping project focused on Norwegian environmental regions without human encroachments. The report gives an account of the importance of areas without encroachments in relation to conservation of biological diversity and outdoor recreation. The development will be followed during continuous monitoring. The report is meant to increase the decision-making basis at the municipal and county level by management of areas and resources.

3. Major Groups: The following NGOs are involved in Mountain issues: NGOs for

- out-door recreation (DNT, The Norwegian Mountain Touring Association)
- fishing and hunting (NJFF, Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers)
- nature conservation (NNV, Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature; NOF, Norwegian Ornitological Society; NBF, Norwegian Botanical Society; and WWF)
- local Mountain board (Fjellstyrer).

4. Finance: Financing is within the ordinary budgets of the Ministry of Environment/Directorate for Nature Management and the County Governor, the county municipalities and the municipality.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Norway participates in the Conference of Ministries responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) under the Council of Europe and are among others working on charters for rural- and mountain development. Furthermore, Norway has signed The Bonn Convention, The Bern Convention, CITES, The Ramsar Convention and The Convention of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). These agreements have been taken into account in reviewing national strategies.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	High	

STATUS REPORT: Norwegian agricultural policy has been revised on the basis of Proposition no. 8 (1992-93) to the Parliament, "Agriculture in Development", to promote environmental and rural development. The current environmental policy in agriculture is divided into four subjects: (1) long term sustainable management of agricultural land, forest areas and other land-based resources; (2) enhancing environmentally friendly production and products; (3) reduction of pollution and environment strains; and (4) promoting environmental knowledge and skills at all levels in the administration and among the farmers. Reindeer husbandry should in its turn be ecologically, economically and culturally sustainable, taking into consideration the Sami people as an ethnic group with status as indigenous people. Rural development is meant to secure the settlement patterns throughout the country and to ensure equality in living conditions in all parts of the country. Creation of new industries, especially for women, is the major challenge today.

The main strategy is to integrate environmental concerns in agricultural policy as such, in order to obtain comprehensive solutions. The main policy instrument, i.e. regional and structural support, as well as environmental goals and programmes, are negotiated annually between the Government and the two farmers unions, and laid down in the Agricultural Agreement. Measures are targeted towards specific purposes to promote cost-effective action. In addition, to promote implementation of new environmental innovations, free or subsidized guidance and research and development (R&D) is provided. Some measures are founded on voluntary action and commitments of the farmers, whereas others are compulsory measures. Monitoring and control systems are established to secure implementation on the farms and to evaluate the effectiveness of means and measures.

In terms of reindeer husbandry, the most important measures are to reduce the amount of reindeer in districts with overgrazing and at the same time increase the production and the productivity of the remaining reindeer in order to maintain the level of income to the Sami people involved in reindeer husbandry.

The Rural Development Support Scheme (RDSS) was established as a response to the challenges rural communities are facing when it comes to employment and changes in the settlement structure. The RDSS is intended to be supplementary to general regional aid by providing an incentive to small-scale operations, initiated to create employment to replace disappearing jobs within agriculture. The target group is people attached to farm holdings. Environmental sustainability is a precondition for support from the RDSS.

The Ministry of Agriculture seeks to combine industry with environmental and cultural concerns. An ongoing process seeks to integrate environmental concerns in planning, procedures, implementation and evaluation. The RDSS funding is available to both men and women, but gives special priority to women.

Technical advancement and the following reduction of people directly involved in agriculture have made a strong impact on women's involvement and role in agriculture. We recognize the effect that agricultural policy may have on women and their position within agriculture and endorse a policy which takes women's experiences, values, concerns and resources into account. To ensure this, the Ministry of Agriculture works for a more equitable representation of women and men in decision-making positions and leading roles within the sector. The knowledge and interest women show for sustainable rural development is of vital importance. Employment opportunities have to be expanded to make sure that women find an interesting future in rural areas.

The long-term plans for research in Agriculture (1995-2005) states the goals, strategies and priorities for agricultural research, which is to provide the knowledge required for sustainable management of nature and production of food, forest products, other products and services based on biological resources, land resources and sustainable rural development.

During the past years, there has been a reorganization of the administrative set-up pertaining to environmental policies and agriculture. New formal mechanisms, both at central and local/regional level, are bringing a better integration of environmental and rural priorities into overall agricultural policy, and are promoting a more efficient approach to sustainable development on regional and local level.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Ministry of Agriculture bears the main responsibility for agriculture and rural development in Norway. It is a member of The National Committee for International Environmental Questions. The following legislation is related to the issues discussed in this chapter: the Concession Act (1974), the Land Law (1955), the Allodial Act (1974), the Reindeer Herding Act, the Land Consolidation Act (1979), the Animal Husbandry Act 1962), the Animal Welfare Act (1974), the Interim Fish Disease Act (1990) and the Pollution Control Act (1981). Acts or agreements related to agriculture have been reviewed/amended since 1992 to promote SARD. The Agricultural Development Fund and the Rural Development Fund have been established. The amendments accomplished are fully consistent with the principles of SARD.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: The ongoing process of integrating environmental concerns in the existing institutions has resulted in adjusted administrative set-ups and increased competence in all public institutions. Additionally, some private institutions have been established, such as the Centre for Soil and Environmental Research. Administrative systems, such as planning processes and monitoring and control systems, have been introduced in the administration and are still under development in order to secure high quality in the management of natural resources.

3. Major Groups: Farmers' organizations and "Sametinget" (the Sami Parliament).

4. Finance: State aid and expenditures in the Ministry of Agriculture to promote SA: 3.800 mill. NOK (1996). Rural development scheme: 443 mill. NOK (1996).

5. Regional/International Co-operation: The following programmes/organizations for co-operation have been established under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers:

- The Nordic Gene Bank
- The Nordic Gene Bank for Farm Animals
- Programme for Environment and Sustainable Agriculture
- The Nordic Contact Agency for Agricultural and Forestry Affairs and
- The Nordic Forestry Research.

These organizations have participated both in reviewing national strategies and providing additional funding and external human resources. Norway also participated in the 2nd Circumpolar Agricultural Conference held in Tromsø in 1995. Co-operation among the countries in the northern hemisphere aims at promoting sustainable cultivating practices in northern/Arctic areas. Furthermore, Norway works within FAO and OECD to promote SA.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1985	**1990**	**Latest 1995**	
Agricultural land (Km^2)	9,570	9,940	10,250	
Agricultural land as % of total land area	3.0	3.0	3.0	
Agricultural land per capita	.23	.23	.23	
	1980	**1992/93**	**1995**	
Population of farmers/ranchers	376,000	268,000	238,000	
Agriculture sector output in % of GNP	3.2	1.7	1.7	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT:
The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1993.
The first report on the implementation of Article 6 will be submitted by June 1997.
A country study on biological diversity in Norway was issued in 1992 as a follow-up to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was signed in 1976.
The latest report submitted was in 1995.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

Protected areas consists of 18 National Parks, 76 Landscape Protected Areas and 1172 Nature Reserves in Norway. The most important acts which can be used for area protection are the Nature Conservation Act and the Svalbard Act. In addition there are conservation initiatives according to other acts, such as: the Planning and Building Act, the Wildlife Act, the Act Relating to Salmonids and Freshwater Fish etc., the Cultural Heritage Act, the Act on Saltwater Fishes and the Aquaculture Act.

Norway is party to five international conservation and sustainable use instruments: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), the Convention on the Conservation on Migratory Species (Bonn) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Protection of species is primarily secured by conservation and proper management of habitats. In addition, there are several action plans for managing species requiring special attention (e.g. threatened species, game species). Species covered by the Wildlife Act and the Act Relating to Salmonids and Freshwater Fish (terrestrial mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and other freshwater organisms) are at the outset under the principle of general protection.

In order to improve the co-ordination of collecting, storing and presenting environmental data, the Ministry of Environment has established a network of 10 thematic centres. The centres will together cover all sectors relevant to environmental issues/data collection.

"Monitoring of Environmental Biodiversity" is an overall programme planned to be established by the year 2000. It is recommended that the programme is based on ongoing monitoring activities as well as on the need for new biological registrations. It is recommended that the management of the various monitoring programmes still resides with the authorities and institutions presently responsible, but the main organisational responsibility is to be placed with the Directorate for Nature Management.

In 1995, the Norwegian Research Council received approximately 8 mill USD in national funding for research in subjects related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Biodiversity is increasingly integrated into the educational system at different levels from primary school up to the universities. The establishment of Centres for Environment and Development at all universities has strengthened environmental capacity in the educational system. See also chapter 36.

Priority is given to integrating sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in all sectors and at all levels of society. All relevant sectors are participating actively in the preparation of the national action plan for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. This action plan will be part of a parliamentary report on sustainable development to be issued in spring 1997. See also chapter 8.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Ministry of Environment (the Department of Nature Conservation and Cultural Heritage, the Section for Biodiversity and Biotechnology) is the body primarily responsible for biodiversity and genetic resources. Norway has a national action plan on Biodiversity which will be presented in a Parliamentary Report on sustainable development to be issued in spring 1997. Related legislation will be reviewed according to the conclusions of the action plan.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: In 1994, the number of scientists in the field of biodiversity was approximately 400. In universities, the number of courses on biodiversity (at M.Sc. & Ph.D. levels) has increased.

3. Major Groups: Several para-statal bodies and institutions, as well as NGOs representing academic and private sectors, are involved in the national, regional and local planning processes.

4. Finance:

Funding for biodiversity-related measures within the budget of the Ministry of Environment 1996:

Eco-systems and species management	74,5 mill. USD
Outdoor recreation	12.1 mill. USD
Climate/air pollution/organic waste	79,2 mill. USD
Land use planning	21,7 mill. USD
Arctic and Antarctic eco systems	19,8 mill. USD
Research and information	24,5 mill. USD

Funding for environmental measures from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1996	132 mill. USD
Funding for environmental measures from the Ministry of Fisheries in 1996	42 mill. USD

5. Regional/International Co-operation: The Government attaches great importance to international co-operation regarding R&D, as well as legislation on biotechnology. In May 1993, the Ministry of Environment, in co-operation with UNEP, arranged a conference of experts on biological diversity in Trondheim which was attended by scientists, managers, bureaucrats and policy-makers, as well as representatives from international organizations and NGOs from 79 countries. In July 1996, the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with UNEP, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNESCO, IUCN and SCOPE, arranged a conference on Alien Species in Trondheim. 180 scientists, managers and policy-makers from developing and developed countries, as well as representatives from international organizations and NGOs attended this second Trondheim Conference. Norway will also contribute actively to strengthening the scientific basis for decisions to be made under the Convention on Biological Diversity by arranging workshops etc.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1992	Latest 1996
Protected area as % of total land area	6.27	6.4[1]
	1990	**Latest 1992**
Number of threatened species	24	150

[1] When all national park plans are developed, approximately 13% of total land area will be protected.
[2] A revised Norwegian Red List is being prepared. In the existing Red List (1992) there are 150 species classified as endangered, 279 species as vulnerable and 800 species are rare. This was the first Red List to be made, which helps explain the large increase in registered threatened species since 1990.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: Sound and sustainable use of modern biotechnology has high priority in Norway. Emphasis is increasingly being put on related R&D activities, both in the private and the public sector. Legislation and research programmes in the field of biotechnology and environment have been strengthened.

The Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board produces a bimonthly information leaflet that is distributed to most of the high schools and other interested institutions and people. The leaflet highlights ethical and social issues as well as potential benefits and risks related to the use of modern biotechnology.

Deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is subject to approval by the competent national authority, the Ministry of Environment.

A regulation on Impact Assessment referred to in the Gene Technology Act has been adopted. Guidelines on Procedure concerning applications for deliberate release of GMOs referred to in the Gene Technology Act are also established. An amendment to the Norwegian Gene Technology Act of 1993 was adopted on 23 June 1995. The amendment introduces an authorization which makes it possible for Norwegian authorities to issue specific regulations with regard to export of GMOs and for the establishment of Norwegian industries abroad for the production of such GMOs.

The amendment is a follow-up of the Convention on Biological Diversity which states that a Contracting Party (CP) exporting GMOs should provide any available information about the use and safety regulations required by that Party as well as any available information on the potential adverse impact of the specific organism concerned to the CP into which those organisms are to be introduced (Art. 19(4).

However, Norway will await the outcome of the negotiations on a biosafety protocol - more specifically the AIA-procedure and notification procedures (Advance Informed Agreement) required for transboundary movements of GMOs - before introducing specific regulations on such transboundary movements.

Norwegian authorities will contribute actively towards the establishment of international regulations in this regard so that the positive potential within the biotechnology field can be used without endangering the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

To facilitate the participation of all relevant authorities in the regulation of modern biotechnology, an interministerial committee in modern biotechnology has been established by the Ministry of Environment. The Norwegian Government has appointed an official independent board for biotechnology, the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board. Its mandate covers issues relating to biotechnology in connection with humans, animals, plants and microorganisms. Some of the most important functions mentioned in the mandate are as follows:

- to evaluate questions of principle and general issues related to biotechnical activity, including ethical questions, to present proposals for ethical guidelines for biotechnological activity
- to make recommendations concerning applications for approval of contained use and deliberate release and recommendations for the use of the appeals board in connection with rejected applications
- to disseminate information among the public on issues related to biotechnology.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Ministry of Environment, Section for Biodiversity and Biotechnology, is responsible for environmentally sound management of biotechnology in Norway. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is responsible for the health-aspects relating to the production and use of GMOs, and is the competent authority for contained use of GMOs. Norway does not have a strategy plan for the sustainable use of modern biotechnology, but national legislation has special provisions for biotechnology in the Act Relating to the Production and Use of Genetically Modified Organisms. The Gene Technology Act (1993) describes the safety mechanisms and procedures. There are special provisions concerning public information and consultation.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Capacity-building is an important element in the negotiation of a biosafety protocol under the CBD. Norway will contribute to this process. The Norwegian Research Council runs a research programme on biotechnology and development in developing countries.

3. Major Groups: The Norwegian Government recognizes the importance of the knowledge and rights of indigenous people. Issues of biotechnology are however not linked to the rights of indigenous people. Major NGOs in the area of environmentally sound management of biotechnology are the Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature and the Consumer Council.

4. Finance: In 1996 the funding (for biotechnology-related) projects from the Ministry of Environment to the Norwegian Research Council, the Division for Environment and Development, equals approximately USD 580.000. The Division for Bioproduction and Processing received USD 5,0 million of funding (for biotechnology-projects) from the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Oil and Energy.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: International contacts and co-operation exist among Norwegian scientists, but they are not specifically funded or advised by international organizations or professional staff. Norway has also been involved with the Fourth European Community Framework Programme on Biotechnology.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT:

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed in 1982 and ratified in 1996.

See also the attached tables on the next pages. Norway has a national oceans policy which is fully integrated in the national strategy for development. All the programme areas of Agenda 21's chapter 17 are considered to be important or very important and have been well and fully covered.

In principle, all pollutants to the oceans, especially hazardous substances, require international co-operation. Norway therefore participates fully and actively in all global and relevant regional co-operation for the protection of the marine environment from both sea-based and land-based activities.

The issue of hazardous substances is fully addressed in the national policy. It is stated in the report to the Parliament concerning Norway's implementation of the North Sea Declarations that, as a matter of principle, all discharges of hazardous substances should be reduced to levels that are not harmful to man or to the environment by the year 2000.

Addressing sewage related problems is of very high national importance and is generally well covered. Norway is concerned about bringing sewage onshore in scattered areas, and has therefore not ratified MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV on Sewage. Other sources of marine pollution are also receiving full attention, and environmentally less harmful pesticides and fertilizers are comprehensively promoted. Discharges of organohalogen compounds and other synthetic organic compounds are comprehensively addressed as well.

Promotion of environmentally sound technology and sustainable practices are considered very important and these aspects are generally well covered. Public awareness and information programmes are strongly supported.

Norway is at present one of the leading countries in, and hosts the secretariat for, the regional North Sea Co-operation. The integration of fisheries and environmental issues is on the list of priorities in this process.

Norway has ratified the FAO agreement on Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, and has been active in the FAO work on a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Norway has also ratified the agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Most of the important principles in these agreements are applied in Norwegian fisheries management, and initiatives have been taken to implement the precautionary approach in fisheries. The further implementation of the specific provisions of the Code of Conduct for the UN agreement will be considered when acts and regulations are revised. Norway has pledged its support to FAO in assisting developing countries in implementing the Code of Conduct in their national fisheries policies, and supports a global Fisheries Management and Law Advisory Programme (FIMLAP) implemented by FAO.

Norway has established a coordinated approach to planning and sustainable management of the coastal zone, as regards accommodation, common property issues, pollution, biological diversity, nature conservation, cultural heritage, transport, industry, agriculture, marine culture, fisheries and other business. In coastal areas, it is often necessary to see municipal planning in several municipalities as a whole. Coastal zone planning within the framework of county planning on the basis of sustainable management of natural resources is in progress. The intention is to develop close regional co-operation on the management of the coastal zone, and thus make it easier to clarify different interests and areas of conflict between sectors.

In recent years management and development of the Oslofjord region has been in focus. As a result, the National Policy Guidelines for planning in coastal and marine areas in the Oslofjord were adopted in 1993. The guidelines define a national policy for the Oslofjord region. The implementation of the guidelines in land use planning within the framework of municipal master plans and country plans is important.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The main responsibility rests with the Ministry of Environment and its subordinate body, the State Pollution Control Authority. Some authority is delegated to state authorities at the regional level. The implementation of measures is the responsibility of the sectoral ministries, such as the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Industry etc.

The main acts for regulating the issues related to chapter 17 are the Pollution Control Act (1983), the Seaworthiness Act, the Nature Conservation Act (1985), the Planning and Building Act (1986), the Saltwater Fisheries Act, the Aquaculture Act, and the Harbour Act.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Coastal vulnerability assessment is very important and well covered in research activities. Systematic observation of the marine environment is also very well covered by Norwegian research and marine science, and these activities will be further strengthened in the coming years. Norway has initiated a study of phyto- and zooplankton in arctic shallow lakes in 1995 to determine possible effects of ozone layer depletion. Annual regular assessments are made of the state of the environment in coastal and marine areas and of the living marine resources. As to technology issues, reference is made to the description in chapter 34.

3. Major Groups: NGOs dealing with the environment, fisheries, aquaculture, industry etc., as well as labour organizations (LO) and the fisheries organisation (Norwegian Fisherman Association).

4. Finance: There are no subsidies in place relating to the issues in chapter 17.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: The main forums for co-operation are as follows: Regional: Oslo & Paris Commissions (OSPAR), North Sea Co-operation, Bonn Agreement, Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). Global: UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, IMO/MEPC, London Convention 1972, OPRC, FAO.

The Nansen Programme provided by Norway supports developing countries in fishery research and management in order to promote utilization of marine living resources and an improved protection of the marine environment. The Programme's objectives reflect recommendations of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the spirit of international co-operation contained in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Programme carries out field work through surveys with the research vessel "Dr. Fridtjof Nansen" and produces basic information on resource abundance and distribution to satisfy immediate management needs. The long-term objective of the Programme is self-sufficiency in research and management in partner countries, through the development and strengthening of their institutions. In 1995, "Dr. Fridtjof Nansen" has carried out research activities worth NOK 20 million.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1995	
Catches of marine species (metric tons)			approx. 2,500,000	
Population in coastal areas			approx. 75%	
Population served by waste water treatment (% of country's total population)			88%	
Discharges of oil into coastal waters (metric tons)			$100m^3$	
International cooperation: Marine research vessel " Dr. Fridjof Nansen" (1.000 NOK)			20,296	

Chapter 17 (Oceans) Continued:

Check the boxes in the column below left:
For level of importance use:
*** = very important
** = important
* = not important
N = not relevant

Check the boxes in the column below right:
For level of implementation use:
*** = fully covered
** = well covered - gaps being addressed
* = poorly covered
O = not covered
N = not relevant

TABLE I. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	a. Preparation and implementation of land and water use and siting policies.	**
**	b. Implementation of integrated coastal and marine management and sustainable development plans and programmes at appropriate levels.	***
**	c. Preparation of coastal profiles identifying critical areas including eroded zones, physical processes, development patterns, user conflicts and specific priorities for management.	**
***	d. Prior environmental impact assessment, systematic observation and follow-up of major projects, including systematic incorporation of results in decision-making.	***
***	e. Contingency plans for human induced and natural disasters.	***
**	f. Improvement of coastal human settlements, especially in housing, drinking water and treatment and disposal of sewage, solid wastes and industrial effluents.	***
**	g. Periodic assessment of the impacts of external factors and phenomena to ensure that the objectives of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and marine environment are met.	**
*	h. Conservation and restoration of altered critical habitats.	**
***	I. Integration of sectoral programmes on sustainable development for settlements, agriculture, tourism, fishing, ports and industries affecting the coastal areas.	**
**	J. Infrastructure adaptation and alternative employment.	**
**	K. Human resource development and training.	**
**	L. Public education, awareness and information programmes.	***
***	M. Promoting environmentally sound technology and sustainable practices.	**
**	N. Development and simultaneous implementation of environmental quality criteria.	**

TABLE II. TECHNOLOGY (MARINE ENVIRONMENT)

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
***	A. Apply preventive, precautionary and anticipatory approaches so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment, as well as to reduce the risk of long-term or irreversible adverse effects upon it.	***
***	B. Ensure prior assessment of activities that may have significant adverse impacts upon the marine environment.	***
**	C. Integrate protection of the marine environment into relevant general environmental, social and economic development policies.	**
***	D. Develop economic incentives, where appropriate, to apply clean technologies and other means consistent with the internalization of environmental costs, such as the polluter pays principle, so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment.	**
***	E. Improve the living standards of coastal populations, particularly in developing countries, so as to contribute to reducing the degradation of the coastal and marine environment.	***
**	F. Effective monitoring and surveillance within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of fish harvesting and transportation of toxic and other hazardous materials.	***

TABLE III. SEWAGE RELATED ISSUES

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Sewage related problems are considered when formulating or reviewing coastal development plans, including human development plans.	***
***	B. Sewage treatment facilities are built in accordance with national policies.	***
***	C. Coastal outfalls are located so as to maintain acceptable level of environmental quality and to avoid exposing shell fisheries, water intakes and bathing areas to pathogens.	***
***	D. The Government promotes primary treatment of municipal sewage discharged to rivers, estuaries and the sea, or other solutions appropriate to specific sites.	***
***	E. The Government supports the establishment and improvement of local, national, subregional and regional, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control effluent discharge. Minimum sewage effluent guidelines and water quality criteria are in use.	***

TABLE IV. OTHER SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Established or improved upon, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control emissions, including recycling technologies.	**
**	B. Promoted risk and environmental impact assessments to help ensure an acceptable level of environmental quality.	**
**	C. Promoted assessment and cooperation at the regional level, where appropriate, with respect to the input of point source pollutants from the marine environment.	**
***	D. Taken steps to eliminate emissions or discharges of organohalogen compounds from the marine environment.	**
***	E. Taken steps to eliminate/reduce emissions or discharges or other synthetic organic compounds from the marine environment.	**
***	F. Promoted controls over anthropogenic inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous that enter coastal waters where such problems as eutrophication threaten the marine environment or its resources.	**
**	G. Taken steps to develop and implement environmentally sound land-use techniques and practices to reduce run-off to water courses and estuaries which would cause pollution or degradation of the marine environment.	**
***	H. Promoted the use of environmentally less harmful pesticides and fertilizers and alternative methods for pest control, and considered the prohibition of those found to be environmentally unsound.	***
***	I. Adopted new initiatives at national, subregional and regional levels for controlling the input of non-point source pollutants which require broad changes in sewage and waste management, agricultural practices, mining, construction and transportation.	**
*	J. Taken steps to control and prevent coastal erosion and siltation due to anthropogenic factors related to, inter alia, land-use and construction techniques and practices.	*

TABLE V. ADDRESSING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME AREA THE GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Coordinating national and regional observation programmes for coastal and near-shore phenomena related to climate change and for research parameters essential for marine and coastal management in all regions.	**
**	B. Providing improved forecasts of marine conditions for the safety of inhabitants of coastal areas and for the efficiency of marine operations.	**
***	C. Adopting special measures to cope with and adapt to potential climate change and sea-level rise.	**
**	D. Participating in coastal vulnerability assessment, modelling and response strategies particularly for priority areas, such as small islands and low-lying and critical coastal areas.	**
**	E. Identifying ongoing and planned programmes of systematic observation of the marine environment, with a view to integrating activities and establishing priorities to address critical uncertainties for oceans and all seas.	**
**	F. Research to determine the marine biological effects of increased levels of ultraviolet rays due to the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.	**
**	G. Carrying out analysis, assessments and systematic observation of the role of oceans as a carbon sink.	***

TABLE VI. RATING OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AIR AND MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTORS IN THE SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

AIR TRANSPORT	RATING	MARITIME TRANSPORT	RATING
1. Frequency (external flights)		1. Frequency (external shipping)	
2. Frequency (in-country flights)		2. Frequency (in-country shipping)	
3. Cooperation at regional level in air transport and civil aviation		3. Cooperation at regional level in shipping	
4. Cooperation at international level		4. Cooperation at international level	
5. Economic viability of national air line		5. Economic viability of national shipping line(s)	
6. Economic viability of regional air line		6. Economic viability of regional shipping line (s)	
7. national level training in skills for air transport sector		7. National level training in skills for maritime transport sector	
8. Access to training in skills for air transport sector within the region		8. Regional level training in skills for maritime transport sector	
9. Access to international training for air transport sector		9. Access to international training for maritime transport sector	
10. Supportive of ICAO			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	High	

STATUS REPORT: Norway has an abundance of good water resources and the supply of fresh water is adequate for both domestic and industrial use. The majority of fresh water resources are qualitatively satisfactory. Local problems may sometimes occur and the need for water treatment varies. Quality criteria are developed for domestic water supply. The main principle in the development of a satisfactory water supply is that the overall benefit to society shall exceed the cost. National Policy Guidelines and national standards are being formulated to help the municipalities set their own environmental objectives for freshwater within the municipal borders. A classification system for water quality assessment has been established and will form the basis for biological and chemical water quality criteria. Efforts are being made to establish the necessary systems to ensure efficient and systematic collection, processing, storage and retrieval of information on the quality of water resources. A national monitoring programme for water quality in lakes and rivers was initiated in 1980. The programme currently includes monitoring 1,000 lakes and determining the effects of eutrophication in 355 lakes. Discharge into the sea is monitored in approximately 20 rivers. In addition, short-time monitoring on clean-up and restoration works are also carried out.

It is a national goal that, as a general principle, all measures to modernize the municipal sector should be completed by the year 2000. Norway has built several wastewater treatment plants with a phase of secondary treatment (chemical purification) over the last few years, and a secondary phase is planned for all plants (with freshwater recipient) with more than 2000 p.e. Two wastewater plants have included a phase of nitrogen removal, and three plants have started building the nitrogen removal phase. Nitrogen is not a large problem for freshwater in Norway.

River systems have been designated as a target area for regional planning and land use policy as regards natural resources. Joint land use plans for major river systems have been drawn up by several counties. Coordinated water resource planning is for instance being implemented for the Glomma, Numesdalslågen and Femund/Trysil rivers.

Critical loads of acid deposition are exceeded in areas of 117,000 km^2 which comprises 1/3 of the total Norwegian land area. From 1960 to 1990, the total area with damaged fish stocks increased fivefold. Out of 13,000 fish stocks controlled, near 2,591 stocks have gone extinct and 2.914 are endangered. Acidification is mainly due to long-distance airborne pollution (SO2, NOx) from Great Britain and from Central and Eastern Europe.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The Planning and Building Act (1985) facilitates coordination of national, county and municipal activities and provides a basis for decisions on the use and protection of the environment. During their physical planning, in accordance with the Act, municipalities may establish environmental goals for their water resources and the environment in the vicinity of these resources. The Regulation for Water Supply and Drinking Water (1995) gives a set of requirements for drinking water quality, deliverance security etc. for the water plants. The municipal councils approve the water supply systems in accordance with the Regulation within the municipal borders.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Transfer: Norway has several projects in developing countries for capacity-building and technology transfer to secure both the quality and the supply of freshwater.

3. Major Groups: Major environment NGOs are active watchdogs with regard to the management of water resources, and are important hearing bodies, mainly through their network "The Co-operation Board on Nature Conservation" (SRN). The Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers are particularly concerned with restoring lakes and watercourses from acid rain damage by voluntary liming projects, in close co-operation with central, regional and local nature management authorities.

4. Finance: The water supply and wastewater treatment is financed through a local fee called "Water and Wastewater" which every household is required to pay to the municipality.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Norway co-operates actively with various developing countries. Since 1993, Norway has assisted the Zambezi River Action Plan (ZACPLAN) in Zambia, supported the setting up of the River Board in Tanzania, and indicated willingness to support the Government of Zimbabwe in its efforts to commence work on a national water strategy. Norway also supports the strengthening of co-operation between the administrations of Zambia and Zimbabwe in assessing and protecting the ecosystem in lake Kariba. The lake is a tremendous food resource and determining the level of sustainable exploitation is a major task of the project. Several other projects regarding drinking water supply and sanitation in these two countries are also being funded.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980s[1]	1990	Latest 199-	
Fresh water availability (total domestic/external in million m^3)	393,200			
Annual withdrawal of freshwater as % of available water	0.52			
Other data [1] = No significant changes since mid-1980s.				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: The work in the chemical field has a high priority in Norway, focusing on evaluation of health and environmental hazards, risk assessment and chemical management.

The most important organisation with which Norway co-operates in this field is the EU. Through the EEA agreement, Norway has implemented several EU directives/regulations in the chemical field. These regulations, combined with already existing national regulations, have improved the control of harmful chemicals.

Norway has implemented a regulation concerning notification of new chemical substances and thus takes part in the European notification system. This regulation implies that new chemical substances have to be tested with respect to possible hazardous effects on man and environment. The notification system contributes to avoiding new harmful chemicals entering the market.

Another important regulation which has been implemented in Norway is connected to the large number of existing chemicals already on the market. Producers and importers have to report all accessible information about health and environmental effects of these chemicals. The authorities in the EEA countries will evaluate some of these substances and propose a strategy for risk reduction.

The Norwegian environmental authorities have also implemented a regulation concerning export and import of certain dangerous chemicals, thus making the PIC procedure (prior informed consent) legally binding in Norway.

Furthermore, Norway has a comprehensive regulation concerning classification and labelling of chemical substances and preparations which are dangerous to health. The provisions set detailed requirements with respect to classification, labelling and sale of chemical substances and preparations. Norway has also implemented a regulation concerning classification and labelling of substances which may be harmful to the environment. The purpose of these regulations is to continue the efforts to prevent injury from substances and preparations which can be hazardous to health and environment.

Norway plays an active role in the OECD, especially in the work with harmonization of systems for classification and labelling of hazardous substances.

Furthermore, Norway also plays a very active role in the work with the follow-up of the North Sea Declarations* and OSPARCOM. Norway participates in the IFCS (Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety) and the ECE work with POPs (persistent organic pollutants). Norway participates in the activities going on at the Nordic level.

* By 1984, it was generally perceived that slow progress was being made in reducing pollution of the North Sea. As a result, a series of Ministerial Conferences were held, attended by Ministers responsible for the protection of the North Sea. The first was held in Germany in 1984; the second in London in 1987; the third at the Hague in 1990; and the fourth in Denmark in 1995. At the end of each Conference, the Ministers from participating countries agreed on objectives by way of Declarations. These Declarations are not legally binding and it is up to each government to decide how to achieve the stated objectives. It has been agreed that Norway should organize the next Conference in the period 2000-2002.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The bodies primarily involved in decision-making are the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry and Energy.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Not applicable.

3. Major Groups: Several environmental NGOs are interested in these matters and are working in several ways to disclose "old sins" and watch the new practises of industry and authorities.

Industry has tended to comply with EU regulations and directives even before they are incorporated into Norwegian legislation.

4. Finance: Not applicable.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: The Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) has adopted the policy that all co-operative activities must be assessed in terms of their anticipated environmental consequences, including questions of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. The programmes/projects specifically related to toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes include: monitoring and control of pollution from the aluminum industry in India; treatment and management of tannery wastes in Pakistan; integrated pesticide management in Nicaragua; training and laboratory facilities in Sri Lanka; investigation of problems related to papermill wastes in Zambia; and institutional capacity-building of authorities responsible for environmental policy and management related to toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes in Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nicaragua.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY: High

STATUS REPORT:

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed in 1989 and ratified in 1990.

The Norwegian Regulation on Transboundary Shipments (1994), which implements the Basel Convention, is the main Norwegian legislation regulating transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. It prohibits all export of hazardous waste (waste listed on the amber and red list) to final disposal, as well as to recycling, to all areas south of latitude 60 degrees and to all non-OECD countries. Norway has established all procedures necessary to comply with the obligations in the Basel Convention.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The main objective of Norwegian waste management is to ensure that waste-related problems are solved in such a way that waste causes as little damage and harm to the population and the natural environment as possible, while at the same time ensuring that waste and waste management utilize the least possible of the nation's resources. The main strategy for Norway's waste policy is: to prevent the generation of waste and reduce its amount of harmful substances; to promote re-use, material recycling and energy recovery; and to secure environmentally sound disposal of the remaining waste.

By the year 2000, practically all hazardous waste generated in Norway shall be recovered or otherwise treated in approved Norwegian installations for deposit or refuse disposal. Norway currently generates about 660.000 tons of hazardous waste per year, from which about 39,000 tons are exported. The amount of hazardous waste with unknown disposal is about 20,000 tons.

The legislative framework for the regulation of hazardous waste is the Pollution Control Act (1981) and the Product Control Act of (1976). The Regulation Concerning Hazardous Waste (1994) is the main regulation concerning hazardous waste. It makes anyone in possession of hazardous waste responsible for ensuring that it does not cause pollution or injury to human beings or animals. It also obliges enterprises generating more than 1 kg hazardous waste to deliver it to approved systems for handling of hazardous waste at least once a year. The regulation requires anyone who wants to handle hazardous waste to obtain a permit. Furthermore it obliges municipalities to ensure that they have adequate facilities for receiving hazardous waste from household and enterprises possessing small quantities of hazardous waste. There are also specific regulations regulating different types of hazardous waste e.g. PCB, CFC, waste oils and batteries.

Special return systems for lead batteries and waste oils in which the industry has been given responsibility for ensuring recovery of their products when they become waste has been established. The government also is considering establishing new special return systems for waste from electric and electronic products, from buildings and installations, from packaging used for hazardous waste, from Nickel Cadmium batteries and from waste containing PCB.

The Norwegian Waste Management Company Ltd. (NOAH), which is jointly owned by the Government and nine large industrial companies, was established in 1991. It shall ensure that Norway has solutions for handling of all types of hazardous waste generated in Norway.

In the late 1980s, Norwegian environmental authorities started an in depth mapping of land contaminated with hazardous and toxic substances. Remedial actions have taken place and acute danger to health is taken care of and the risk of severe environmental problems is significantly reduced. Substantial work has been done to develop methods and means to efficiently handle contaminated land. There has been established a programme to ensure that contaminated land will not represent a risk for serious environmental problems in the future. According to the polluter pays principle, this work will be at cost of the contaminator.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-making Structure: The regulatory framework for solving waste problems is the Pollution Control Act and the Product Control Act. In 1993, Parliament adopted various amendments to the provisions on waste (including hazardous waste) in the Pollution Control Act. These amendments provide a legal basis for requiring municipalities to cover the full cost of treatment of waste, to arrange the sorting of waste at source, and to make specific plans for waste management. In addition, a legal basis has been established for imposing requirements on industry in connection with collection, sorting and disposal of waste.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Please refer to Chapter 34.

3. Major Groups: The largest amount of hazardous waste is collected by 40 licensed operators. These operators have a central role in the Norwegian system for handling of hazardous waste. Most of the operators are organized in either SAO or Norsav. Several of the Norwegian environmental NGOs are concerned about the way hazardous waste is handled and are thus in several ways working to ensure that waste is handled in an environmentally sound way. The Confederation of Norwegian Industry (NHO) and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Kommunenes Sentralforbund) contributes to the work in the hazardous waste field for example through their partly ownership in The Norwegian Resource Centre for Waste Management and Recycling (NORSAS).

4. Finance: There is established a subsidy scheme for private and municipal investments in systems ensuring environmentally sound collection and treatment of hazardous waste and systems related to handling of hazardous waste and promoting cleaner technologies.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: Please refer to Regional/International Co-operation. in chapter 19. There has been established a close co-operation between the authorities in the Nordic countries in the fields of clean technology and waste. Norwegian authorities are participating in several working groups exchanging views and working towards achieving common positions and solutions to hazardous waste-related questions. Norway is actively taking part in the work under the Basel Convention and is also participating actively in OECD's waste management group. Please also refer to Chapter 39.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1995
Generation of hazardous waste (t)	200,000[1]	200,000[1]	660,000[1]
Import of hazardous wastes (t)	Not avail.	0	7,100
Export of hazardous wastes (t)	Not avail.	16,532	39,000
Area of land contaminated by hazardous waste (km^2)	[2]	[2]	[2]
Expenditure on hazardous waste treatment (US$)			

Other data

[1] The figures from 1980 and 1990 do not include all hazardous waste generated in Norway. It only includes hazardous waste collected and treated through the established system for collection and treatment of hazardous waste. The figure from 1995 also includes hazardous waste collected and treated outside this system.

[2] 2.847 localities.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: The main objective of Norwegian waste management is to ensure that waste-related problems are solved in such a way that waste causes as little damage and disamenity to the population and the natural environment as possible, while at the same time ensuring that waste and waste management utilize the least possible of the nation's resources. The main strategy for Norway's waste policy is: to prevent the generation of waste and reduce its amount of harmful substances; to promote re-use, material recycling and energy recovery; and to secure environmentally sound disposal of the remaining waste.

Norway generates about 14 million tons of waste per year. 4,7 million tons are waste from mining activities; 3,6 million tons are waste from building and construction activities, mainly consisting of soil, stones and concrete; and 660.000 tons are hazardous waste (See Chapter 20). 1,2 million tons of the waste is domestic waste, while 3,3 million tons is industrial waste. The rest de-rives from different private and public activities.

The legislative framework for the regulation of waste is the Pollution Control Act of 13 March 1981 and the Product Control Act of 11 June 1976. Besides regulating the fundamental questions related to waste management, the Pollution Control Act is to a large extent an enabling act which gives the authorities legal basis to give regulations or make individual decisions ensuring an effective implementation of the act. The Product Control Act gives the authorities legal basis to give regulations or make individual decisions e.g. concerning return and deposit schemes, recycling and treatment of waste, in relation to products. In addition to the two acts there are specific regulations regulating different types of waste and different questions related to management of waste.

The Pollution Control Act has a general prohibition against littering and makes anyone violating the prohibition responsible for whatever clean-up may be necessary. The act gives the municipalities responsibility for collection and treatment of domestic waste. The municipalities' costs related to management of waste shall be fully covered through waste management fees. The fees may, however, be differentiated when this may stimulate waste reduction and increased recovery of waste. The municipalities are obliged to draw up waste management plans for reduction and management of all waste generated in the municipalities. The act makes the industry responsible for managing its own waste. The waste shall be brought to a lawful waste facility unless it is recycled or used in some other way. Specific conditions for waste treatment and recycling are laid down in the individual discharge permits given to larger industrial activities. The act states that anyone operating a facility for storage and treatment of waste must have a permit. The permit normally lays down conditions concerning inter alia transport, treatment, recycling and storage of waste.

A main priority in Norway's waste management policy is to increase the industry's responsibility for the waste generated by their products. During the last years there has been established special return systems for different types of packaging, lead batteries and tyres. In the packaging field establishment of systems for corrugated board, cardboard, plastic, metal, beverage carton and glass will ensure collection and recovery of all types of packaging. These return systems have been established as a result of agreements between the authorities and the industry where the industry takes the responsibility for ensuring environmental sound treatment of their products when they end up as waste. Some of the agreements have been supplied by regulations or economic tools to strengthen them. In addition to these return systems, we also have a system for collection and recycling of paper. It is currently being evaluated whether to also establish return systems for among others waste from electric and electronic products and waste from buildings and installations.

To ensure that landfills and incineration plants in the municipalities operate under satisfying environmental standards, there have been introduced considerably stricter regulations and follow-up measures for new landfills and existing incineration plants in recent years. Plans for upgrading of existing landfills have also been made.

To ensure secure and proper waste management it is important to impart information and knowledge. The Norwegian Resource Centre for Waste Management and Recycling (NORSAS), which is jointly owned by the Government, the Confederation of Norwegian Industry (NHO) and the Nowegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Kommunenes Sentralforbund), has as its main task to provide information and knowledge to municipalities, industry and others taking part in waste management.

To ensure secure and proper waste management it is also important to get a full overview over how the waste is currently being managed. For this reason a regulation concerning registration of waste management has newly been adopted.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The regulatory frame for solving problems of waste is the Pollution Control Act and the Product Control Act. In 1993 the Parliament adopted various amendments to the provisions on waste (including hazardous waste) in the Pollution Control Act. These amendments provide a legal basis for requiring municipalities to cover the full cost of treatment of waste, to arrange the sorting of waste at source, and to make specific plans for waste management. In addition, a legal basis has been established for imposing requirements on industry in connection with collection, sorting and disposal of waste.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Please refer to Chapter 34.

3. Major Groups: In relation to the establishment of special return systems for different waste categories, industry has participated actively and has e.g. established private companies owned by the different industries which have been given the responsibility for establishing and running the different systems. Several of the Norwegian environmental NGOs are concerned about the way waste is handled and are thus working in several ways to ensure that waste is handled in an environmentally sound way.

4. Finance: There is established a subsidy scheme for private and municipal investments in systems ensuring waste reduction, waste recycling and promotion of cleaner technologies.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: There has been established a close co-operation between the authorities in the Nordic countries in the fields of clean technology and waste. Norwegian authorities are participating in several working groups exchanging views and working towards achieving common positions and solutions to hazardous waste-related questions. Norway is actively taking part in the work under the Basel Convention and is also participating actively in OECD's waste management group. Please also refer to Chapter 39.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1995
Generation of industrial and municipal waste (t)	4,2mill.[1]	5,0 mill.[1]	5,7 mill.[1]
Waste disposed(Kg/capita)	200[2]	242[3]	289
Expenditure on waste collection and treatment (US$)	Not avail.	Not avail.	285 mill.
Waste recycling rates (%)	<5	6	14
Municipal waste disposal (Kg/capita)	425	510	620
Waste reduction rates per unit of GDP (t/year)			

Other data

[1] Industrial waste does not include waste from the mining industry nor waste from building and construction activities. Municipal waste includes domestic waste and waste from different private and public activities.

[2] Approximate figure

[3] Figures from 1992

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	**High**	
STATUS REPORT: In Norway, radioactive waste is generated from the operation of two research reactors at the Institute for Energy Technology (IFE) in Halden and Kjeller and from the use of radionuclides in research, medicine and industry. Low and intermediate level waste is presently conditioned and stored at IFE. About 2000 drums and boxes are stored at IFE's facility in Kjeller and about 1000 drums, containing small amounts of long lived radionuclides such as plutonium, have been buried at the site. The latter waste will be retrieved and transferred to the new storage and disposal facility when this is completed in 1997-98. A process for the selection of a suitable site for a repository of low and intermediate level waste in Norway has been under way since 1989. This process has resulted in the selection of a concept for a combined storage and disposal facility and the selection of the Himdalen site which is located not far from IFE's waste management facilities in Kjeller. It is estimated that an equivalent of about 10 000 drums of low and intermediate level waste with a total activity of approximately 200 Tbq including about 50g of plutonium will have been generated by the year 2000. This waste will be stored at the Himdalen disposal facility in a hard rock formation about 50 m below ground level. The Norwegian Assistance Programme for Nuclear Safety is focused on measures to increase nuclear safety and prevent radioactive pollution, primarily in North-West Russia. A total of USD 35 million has been earmarked for projects in 1995 and 1996. Approximately USD 15 million is expected to be available in 1997. A number of projects has been identified in four priority areas: • Safety measures at nuclear installations • Management and storage of spent uranium fuel and radioactive waste • Radioactive pollution of the Northern Seas • Arms-related environmental hazards With this Programme the Norwegian Government wishes to address one of the most serious threats to security, human health and the environment. Emphasis is put on increasing international co-operation and co-ordination. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, in collaboration with other ministries concerned, will review existing radiation protection legislation with a view to updating and adapting rules and regulations in the light of technological and other developments.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The location, construction, operation and further steps of nuclear installations are mainly regulated in Norway by three legal instruments:

- The Planning and Building Act, administered by the Ministry of Environment
- The Radiation Protection Act, administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority
- The Atomic Energy Act, administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: See status report on the Assistance Programme for Nuclear Safety to strengthen co-operation with the Russian Federation on the improvement of nuclear safety and the prevention of radioactive pollution.

3. Major Groups: Several Norwegian NGOs co-operate with NGOs in Russia.

4. Finance: See the status report.

5. Regional/International Co-operation: In addition to international co-operation generated by the Assistance Programme, Norwegian authorities play an active part within IAEA, LC-72, OSPAR, OECD/NEA and other international forums.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS	
Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was signed on 17 July 1980 and ratified on 21 May 1981.	
24.a Increasing the proportion of women decision makers. The percentage of women in government was 42 % in 1992 and 1996. The percentage of women in parliament was 39.4% in 1992 and 1996. The percentage of women at the local government level was 28.5% and 32.7% in 1992 and 1996, respectively.	
24.b The government is already involved in assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge.	
24.c and 24.d The government has formulated and implemented policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development.	
24.e Mechanisms are in place to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women.	
Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): In 1989 the Ministry of Environment initiated a 3-year experimental programme "Municipal planning on women's terms". The objective was three-fold: (i) to learn more about women's values and needs, and develop models for incorporating these into the municipal master plan; (ii) to prepare municipal master plans with a stronger women's perspective on the residential environment, economic policy, employment policy, and health and welfare policy; (iii) to communicate the knowledge obtained through the project to other municipalities. Relevant Ministries participated in the programme which was implemented in six small rural municipalities. The Ministry of Environment is supporting financially a regional college study in "Planning and Democracy - a Women's Perspective on Social Planning". The main purpose is to put gender problems on the agenda in existing social planning, and to create an alternative through giving the students understanding of how women's values and demands can be integrated in planning. The study shall be arranged as a part-time study at the Northern Feminist University. In 1995 the Ministry of Environment made a study in some municipalities and counties in Norway to see what had been accomplished since the beginning of the eighties. The study verified that the women's perspective has gradually been given more weight in planning documents. Bottom-up models as a planning principle are now more accepted. These results are summarised in the HABITAT II report in English by the Northern Feminist University.	

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

25.a establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing A21. The two most important youth forums are : Nature and Youth, and The Inky Arms Club.

Describe their role in the national process: Youth are ad hoc participants in the national process.

25.b Youth unemployment	1992: 6.3%	1996: 4.3%	(16-19 years old)
	1992: 11.7%	1996: 7.9%	(20-24 years old)

25.c The government has already ensured that more than 50% of youth -- gender balanced -- have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): In accordance with the Planning and Building Act, national Policy Guidelines to promote the interests of children and adolescents in planning were adopted in 1989. It has a clause requiring the municipal council to appoint a person to attend meetings of the planning council with the purpose of taking care of children's interests. The guidelines are followed up actively by the authorities at county level, and a national conference on the subject is arranged every year. Several pilot projects on children's participation are carried out by municipalities.

The Governments' goal is to provide environmental education and to stimulate environmental concern among children and young people. To achieve this among the youngest children, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Environment have developed a joint strategy and an action plan for environmental education in the kindergartens. The action plan is implemented in the new master plan for kindergartens, pursuant to the Kindergarten Act.

There are two environmental organizations for young people: "The Inky Arms' Club" for children between three and thirteen years old, and "Nature and Youth" for young people up to 25 years of age. Both NGOs represent important channels for awareness raising and active involvement of young people in environmental questions. The Government provides core and project funding for these NGOs.

The Government will host an international conference on child labour in Oslo, 27-30 October 1997. The aim is to identify how Norway and other countries can actively contribute to speeding up the progress toward implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and respect for ILO Convention 138 and other relevant international instruments through development assistance and other forms of international co-operation. The approach should be to facilitate open and constructive dialogue between governments and representatives from organized groups of civil society, defining complementary strategies to reach the objective of combating child labour. Norway is preparing the conference in close collaboration with ILO and UNICEF.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

26.a A process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments is in place.

26.b Indigenous people participate on an ad hoc basis in strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies.

26.c Mechanism for involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level are being discussed.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): The legal framework to enable establishment of a process for co-operation with and participation of the Sami people within different fields of politics are in place due to the establishment of the "Sameting"- the Sami Assembly in Norway. This assembly is democratically elected by the Sami people by a direct vote. The first Sami Assembly was officially opened on October 9th 1989. The purpose of the Sami Act (Act concerning the Sami assembly and other legal matters) of May 29th 1987, is to make it possible for the Sami people in Norway to safeguard and develop their language, culture and way of life.

Norway's ratification of the ILO Convention 169 concerning indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries, gives support for the policy of co-operation with the Sami people in matters where their interests are concerned. The understanding of art. 27 in UN's Convention on Civil and Political Rights as encompassing the cultures' material and environmental basis especially when indigenous peoples' cultures are concerned, is of importance when mechanisms for co-operation regarding resource management are being discussed.

The Sami Assembly is involved in the national preparation process to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially on the item "Knowledge, Innovations and Practises of Indigenous and Local Communities". When it comes to developing strategies for Local Agenda 21s in communities with Sami population, we expect the Sami perspective to be present.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

27.a developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively: No information.

27.b reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation : No information.

27.c Mechanisms already exists to promote and allow NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.

27.d establishing a mutually productive dialogue by 1995 at the national level between NGOs and governments : No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): Mechanisms for NGO participation in programmes for sustainable development was introduced in the late 1980s. The NGOs are permanent members of the National Committee for Sustainable Development and the National Committee for International Environmental Matters (NIM). The NGOs are included in the national preparation committees for major UN conferences, and are also included in the national delegations to the CSD. The Government allocates core- and project funding for NGOs and their networks to facilitate their participation and strengthen their role as partners for sustainable development at all levels.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 28: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.

28.a encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making : The Government supports local agenda 21 initiatives.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): Local Agenda 21 in Norway is based on and associated with the "Reform of Environment Protection in the Municipalities" project, abbreviated to the "MIK-Reform". The project was initiated in 1988, and from 1997 it will be an integral part of the local municipality system. The MIK-reform is based on holistic and long-term planning and policy at municipality level. The Ministry of Environment for its part runs different LA 21 related programmes which will provide important experiences in the implementation of LA 21 in Norway. In addition there are other initiatives from "The Norwegian Network of Health-and Environmental Municipalities", FRISAM (The Norwegian Centre for Voluntary Work), The programme for Eco-Municipalities and other organizations. The experience and results of these programmes and projects will be used as a foundation for the further development of the MIK-reform into LA 21 in Norway. All the Norwegian municipalities have implemented the MIK-reform, regarded as the first phase of Local Agenda 21.

The Government plans to support LA21 initiatives in 1997. The Ministry of Environment is working out a strategy on how to implement LA 21 in Norway, based on the above mentioned reform, projects and programmes, and in close co-operation with the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO), the National Labour Organisation (LO), the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) and other relevant organizations.

The MIK-reform can be seen as the first generation of LA 21. In addition to the traditional environmental problems, the following aspects will be emphasized in the recently initiated phase two of the Local Agenda 21 work:

1. Local participation in both planning and action programmes.
2. The global aspect in LA 21 will have to be strengthened and developed further and integrated into the processes of local planning.
3. The social and economical aspects of Agenda 21.

Some municipalities, counties and NGOs have already started LA 21 processes, often in combination with or based on other related projects and programmes. The cities of Fredrikstad and Bergen have started LA 21 processes and made resolutions about making a LA 21 programme. The two municipalities Sund and Giske are implementing and monitoring LA 21 programmes. At the county level, Akershus county has among others introduced the term "Regional Agenda 21" and is working on the implementation of LA 21 at the regional level. We estimate that 60-70 municipalities and 4-5 counties are working with the LA21-concept today.

Ch. 29: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

29.a full participation of workers in implementation and evaluation of A21.

29.b (By year 2000, (a) promoting ratification of ILO conventions; (b) establishing bipartite and tripartite mechanism on safety, health and sustainable development; (c) increasing number of environmental collective agreements; (d) reducing occupational accidents and injuries; (e) increasing workers' education and training efforts : ILO Conventions have been ratified and workers take some part in National Agenda 21 discussions/implementation.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): The role of workers and their trade unions has not yet been focused on in LA 21, but substantial work on sustainable development is done at the GRIP centre towards businesses, trade and industries (see ch. 4). The Ministry of Environment is presently working on a strategy on how to implement LA 21 in Norway, and the workers and trade unions have a central role in this work.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

30: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

30.a There are governmental policies to encourage increasing the efficiency of resource use, including reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste per unit of economic output. There are governmental policies requiring recycling, (See chapter 21).

30.b encouraging the concept of stewardship in management and use of natural resources by entrepreneurs : No information.

List any actions taken in this area:

- EMAS
- ISO 14000
- The Federation of Norwegian Process Industries encourages its members to take part in a "Responsible Care" programme that the organisation carries out.

30.c increasing number of enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.
Most (90%) big enterprises have adopted sustainable development policies. Several (40%) Small and Medium sized enterprises have adopted sustainable development policies.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): Industrial enterprises are by far the greater part of big enterprises, and the percentage stated is supposed to be relatively certain. SMEs are both industrial and business enterprises and the percentage stated is much more uncertain. For industrial SMEs it is believed to be around 50%.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 31: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY.

31.a The Scientific community in Norway has already established ways in which to address the general public and deal with sustainable development.

Brief comments on this chapter not already described in chapter 35 (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): Exchange of knowledge is an integral part of research activity in general, including the dissemination of knowledge directed towards the general public. The Programme for Research and Documentation for a sustainable society (1996-98) was established in order to carry out:

- strategic research for the realization of a sustainable society
- monitoring of Norwegian progress with respect to the political and economic aspects of Agenda 21
- Information and communication on alternative futures and global ethics (31.3b)

Norwegian participation in international R&D co-operation is growing. The Programme of Co-operation and Competence- building at university institutions in developing countries (since 1991) is based on mutually binding co-operation programmes between Norwegian universities and universities in developing countries. The programme includes training of researchers, Masters and Ph.D. programmes, training of technicians and administrative staff, and infrastructural support (31.9).

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.

32.a promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies : Specific economical support takes care of special concerns such as organic farming and soil conservation. Sustainable farming practices and technologies are encouraged by information and extension services.

32.b developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices : The Acreage and Cultural Landscape Scheme has replaced production-oriented subsidies, and is turning agricultural farming practices in a sustainable direction, both ecologically and economically. All arable land and pasture is eligible for the payments when certain obligations concerning the cultural landscape are fulfilled and the farming practices are in line with the acts.

32.c enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies: The Agricultural Agreement, which is negotiated annually between the Government and The farmers unions, consists of a broad range of instruments to promote sustainable policies. The farmers unions are implementing Environment and Resources Plans for the full integration of environmental considerations into agricultural production.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page): The farmer unions and the Sami Reindeer Herders Association of Norway have participated in the preliminary work of revising the policy for agricultural and reindeer husbandry. They are furthermore involved in the annual negotiations with the Government about regional and structural support which are laid down in the Agricultural Agreement and the Reindeer Husbandry Agreement.

NGOs, the farmers unions and the Reindeer Husbandry Union are important contributors in the preliminary work for revising laws and regulations. The role of farmers and Sami people is strengthened by clarifying their responsibility for using environmentally friendly production methods in the industry. The farmer unions are responsible for implementing environment and natural resource plans which is a new planning tool at farm level to achieve full integration of environmental consideration in production.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: All ministries are responsible for integrating environmental aspects in their activities. The ministries must report on their environmental efforts and on the impact of these measures in their budget proposals. A review of the environmental "profile" of the annual State budget is published in a booklet called "The Green Book".

CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Listed below are the environmental expenditures for each year contained in the budget. In addition to these figures the budget contains information regarding expenditures which are motivated mainly and partly by environmental considerations.
1992: USD 925 million
1993: USD 893 million
1994: USD 805 million
1995: USD 928 million
1996: USD 968 million

NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:
In Norway the following environmental taxes are levied:

- CO_2 taxes on coke and (energy purposes only), petrol and mineral oil. A CO_2 tax i also levied on the use of mineral oil and gas within the offshore sector in the North Sea. There are exemptions from the tax duty (please refer to Ch. 9 for further details).
- SO_2 tax on mineral oil. There are exemptions from the tax duty.
- Tax differentiation between leaded and unleaded petrol.
- Tax-based deposit-return systems for cars to be wrecked, beverage containers and lubricating oil.
- Taxes on fertilizers and pesticides.
- Noise charges on air transport.

In 1994, the Government appointed a Green Tax Commission with the mandate to review the possibility of a shift in taxation from taxes on labour to further improved pricing of the environment and natural resources. The Commission presented its report "Green Taxes - Policies for a Better Environment and High Employment" in June 1996, proposing a number of new and increased environmental taxes. After a hearing process, the Government will present a follow-up of the Commission's report to the Parliament during 1997.

ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES: The above-mentioned Green Tax Commission also recommended in its report that a number of subsidies with environmentally negative effects should be abolished or reduced gradually.

ODA policy issues

Norwegian development assistance over and above the 0.7 per cent target for ODA amounts to between USD 400-500 million annually. Since 1987, the Government has given high priority to the need to integrate environment and development issues. In 1993, a new policy document on the follow-up to UNCED was adopted by the Ministry of Development Co-operation. The main recommendation is that priority should be given to support the partner countries' own efforts to follow-up Agenda 21. Special emphasis is being given to the following issues:

1. A more ecologically sound management of natural resources, particularly through supporting more sustainable development in the primary sector.
2. Population and family planning
3. Development of methods and planning tools which can facilitate better integration of environment and development objectives.
4. Strengthen institutional capacity and support human resources development.
5. Environmental programmes.

Funds for sustainable development have been gradually increasing: since 1992, approximately NOK 1.2 billion, about 16.8 per cent of Norwegian ODA, has been disbursed for sustainable development activities, including population programmes. Adjustment programmes and Norway's assistance in this area continue to focus on the programmes' effects on income distribution and on the social situation in the countries. Norway also urges that environmental considerations should be increasingly taken into account in the design of adjustment programmes.

Norway regularly reports to the OECD/DAC on ODA. Statistical information is therefore organized according to DAC sector codes - see attached table, which indicates the sectoral distribution of the above-mentioned funds.

The Global Environment Facility

NOK 165 million was contributed to the GEF during the pilot phase. For 1994-97, GEF 1 a commitment has been made in the order of NOK 220 million.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS						
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
ODA funding provided or received (Total NOK million)	7,9	7,2	8,0	7,9	8,6	
	Average for 92-93		Average for 94-96			
Net flow of external capital from all sources as % of GDP						
Other data						

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS:

Several administrative and economic measures are being applied to promote environmentally sound technology (EST). In the fiscal policy area, the Norwegian government established in 1990 a broad national programme for environmentally sound technology. The aim of the programme is to create a foundation for both industrial growth and prevention of environmental degradation. The administration of the programme is carried out in close co-operation with the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO). The programme will focus on research and testing/demonstration projects respectively.

In the field of research, the Norwegian Research Council has established a new and more general environmental technology programme (NORMIL 2000) as well as a separate technology programme for reduction of greenhouse gases. In the field of testing/demonstration projects, the State Pollution Control Authority contributes to the development of environmental technology. In the future, the programme will to a greater extent concentrate on development of technology in order to promote and develop more environmentally sound products. In addition to this programme there are other projects which promote the development of environmental technology, especially in the fields of transport and energy. Several economic measures, including fiscal policy, are being applied to promote environmentally sound technology. Most of them are managed at district and municipal levels.

The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT), the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO) and the World Cleaner Production society (WCPS) are the main sources of information at national level. There is, however, no national register with information as to who is able to deliver or develop the technology or services necessary to solve certain environmental problems. Thus, the Government is encouraging the business sectors/industry to establish a register of EST similar to NORSAS' register on waste industry. Norway has also contributed to the OECD "Best Practice Guide for Cleaner production".

Norwegian development assistance is promoting environmentally sound technology in all relevant projects. Much emphasis is put on projects with labour intensive methods. The Norwegian government finances, for example, the transfer of expertise programmes on waste minimization and cleaner production strategies in Central and Eastern Europe and China. The Norwegian Society of Chartered Engineers (NIF) has the overall responsibility for managing these programmes for a 2-4 years period. The programmes aim at implementing economically profitable and environmentally favourable restructuring of industrial processes in 200-350 relevant production companies in each country involved. In Central and Eastern Europe the programmes are being implemented in co-operation between the Norwegian Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry and/or the Ministry of Environment in the country concerned. The most remarkable experience gained so far is that it is possible to reduce waste by 30-40% with practically no extra investment. NORAD is focusing on strengthening existing EST centres in developing countries such as the CSE in India, CEA in Sri Lanka, BCAS in Bangladesh and the regional centre AIT in Bangkok. The Norwegian Government is in the process of increasing funding to various environmental projects in Asia. Baseline studies, resource assessments, institutional strengthening and management of technology will be essential parts of the programme.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION: Norway has established a network of competence for the transfer of environmental knowledge and capacity-building to developing countries and countries in transition.

• Describe any work being undertaken at the national or local level regarding efforts to promote clean production processes and/or the concepts of eco-efficiency. These processes may include training, preferential financial arrangements, information dissemination and changes in legal or regulatory frameworks.

Norway participates in the ISO/TC 207 work on standards within environmental management and is responsible for chairing one sub-committee and one working group. The international participation and secretariat services are financed by the Ministry of Environment and by industry. Norway hosted the 1995 TC meeting.

• Provide information on the adoption of environmental management systems. National reaction to environmental management system standards such as the ISO 14000 Series and others. Please note efforts made at the national level to promote their adoption and the creation of certification infrastructure in order to facilitate access to these standards to local industry.

The EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) regulation came into force in June 1995. A project financed by the Ministry of Environment covering 10 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) has been completed. New pilot projects on the fish industry, fish farming and furniture industry are being tried out in 1996. To date app. 15 companies are registered and several companies are working to be registered.

• List and describe programs or work under way to facilitate the transfer of ESTs to small and medium sized enterprises. Please note efforts to facilitate access to financial resources and other transfer strategies.

The Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry is twice a year organising conferences related to environmental issues and numerous seminars are being offered to promote interest in sound environmental management. An award for the best Environmental Report is established and have achieved significant interest.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: Environmental research is a basic prerequisite for meeting global and national challenges related to the carrying capacity of nature, biodiversity and sustainable production and consumption. During the last decade environmental research has been a field of priority in the Government's general research policy. Public spending on environmental research has increased and environment and development issues have become an integrated part of the national research system.

Science is an important instrument in producing the knowledge needed to make wise and sound decisions for achieving a more sustainable development. There are still many knowledge-gaps to be filled. The Government therefore still gives priority to science for a sustainable development.

The Research Council of Norway gives priority to environmental research aimed at more sustainable value-adding. Threats to the environment must be identified as early as possible, and work on environmentally-friendly products must be further developed. Priority is given to environmentally-oriented research for marine and arctic environments.

STEPS TAKEN TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVE LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT, BUILDING OF CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY: At the governmental level responsibilities for science related to sustainable development are organized as follows: The Ministry of Environment has a direct responsibility for environmental research and an indirect overall responsibility for integration of environmental considerations and environmental research themes in research funded directly by other ministries and sectors. The Ministry of Education, Research and Church affairs has a special responsibility for basic and long-term research as well as for higher education. Other ministries hold responsibility for environmental research within their areas.

One of the most important infrastructural changes has been the reorganization of the Norwegian research council system. In 1993, five research councils were merged into one: The Research Council of Norway. One of the new Council's six divisions is the Division of Environment and Development. This indicates the integration of the UNCED recommendations at the very basic level of Norwegian research. The Research Council produces bi-annual surveys on their activities relevant to UNCED. Today there are more than 90 research programmes, each with 5-10 projects relevant to Agenda 21. In September 1996 the Research Council published *a Strategic Plan for Research on Environment and Development*. The UNCED and post-UNCED documents have played major roles during the development of the strategic plan.

Universities and state colleges have given increased attention to science for sustainable development. In general this has been done through integrating environment and development issues into their ordinary activities through establishing courses and research activities such as "environmental and developmental economics", "environmental physics" and "environmental technology" etc. All universities have established interdisciplinary centres for environment and development.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1991	1993	1995
Number of scientists, engineers and technicians engaged in research and experimental development (head count)[1]	20,118	21,879	Not available
Total expenditure for research and experimental development (NOK bill.)[2]	12,744	14,336	14,933
Public expenditure for research and experimental development (NOK bill.)	6,386	7,065	Not available
R & D funded by the Ministry of the Environment (NOK mill.)	297,8[3]	399,9	384,2[4]
Research for environmental protection (billion NOK in current prices[5]			
Year	Environmental Protection	Total	% of Total
1983	0,143	3,469	4.1
1989	0,336	6,257	5.4
1993	0,542	7,761	7.0

1 Includes R & D personnel with ISCED-level 6 qualification or above
2 Annual growth 1991-93 (fixed prices) :4.3%
3 1989
4 1996
5 Research carried out in enterprises is not included.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

NATIONAL PRIORITY: **High**

STATUS REPORT: Subjects related to sustainable development are included in the curricula for primary and secondary school. In addition, several courses and seminars directed at public and private decision-makers are arranged. Enhancing knowledge and installing environmentally friendly attitudes in children, young people and adults is a high priority. An overall strategy covers educational activities from kindergartens to colleges and universities.

a) Reorientation of education towards sustainable development The Ministry of Education is responsible for environmental education and co-operates with several other ministries on special programmes in this area. The core curriculum prepared by the ministry contains the section "The environmentally aware human being" which is integrated in the various syllabi for different age levels. Teaching materials have been developed for all education levels. Several national environmental education programmes are developed for schools. Experimental activities within selected environmental research areas are carried out. Up-to-date overviews of the quality and extent of work with sustainable development in the educational sector will be available through annual reporting and evaluation programmes.

The Ministry of Education has, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment, developed a strategy for work with environment and development in the education sector for the period 1995-98. In the document the role and responsibility of the different actors at different levels are clarified.

The general aim is an educational system which contributes to sustainable development by the following means: (1) competence raising; (2) the environmental programmes; (3) research and development work; (4) co-operation with other actors; (5) international co-operation on environment and development; and (6) evaluation and reporting.

In relation to goal (1), 80 % of teachers in upper secondary schools have taken in-service training, as have about 40 % of teachers in primary and lower secondary school. In relation to goals (2) and (5), Norway takes part in the "Globe Programme" and the Coastwatch Europe Network, where students collect and register environmental data. There are also student exchange programmes on sustainable development within the Nordic countries.

b) Increasing public awareness In addition to the educational programmes mentioned above, publications on sustainable development - in developed as well as in developing countries - are provided free of charge for schools and the general public. The authorities also employ new information technology, such as Internet. The authorities carry out information campaigns and subsidise TV-programmes on sustainable development.

The Ministry of Environment has initiated a survey of the local authorities' use of the provisions in the Planning and Building Act of 1985 on public participation in municipal planning. According to the survey almost all municipalities fulfil the minimum level of participation given in the law. Approximately 20-30% have experiences from more comprehensive programmes on participation involving local groups, women and/or youth groups. Public participation and planning is likely to be dealt with in the White Paper that is to be submitted in March 1997 on regional planning and land use.

A preliminary study shows that as an effect of public participation during environmental impact assessment, the public debate on large projects, especially in the press, now takes place earlier in the process of planning. Environmental organizations and people directly affected by proposed projects often contribute in the hearing processes, but the public in general is less active. In general environmental assessment of projects has created greater awareness and public involvement in the environmental impacts of large projects.

c) Promoting training At the teacher training colleges, a 10 point credit course on environmental education is obligatory. In addition, a 40 hours in-service training course is offered for all Norwegian teachers. Special classes, workshops and seminars are arranged annually for the education sector.

ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS: Major groups, like industry, labour organizations, farmers' associations and NGOs, carry out information and training programmes on sustainable development. Some programmes are aimed at their own members, some at external target groups like the school system and the public at large. These initiatives by major groups are important for increasing the level of public knowledge and raising awareness on environment and development matters.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1980	1990	Latest 1995	
Adult literacy rate (%) Male		100	100	
Adult literacy rate (%) Female		100	100	
% of primary school children reaching grade 5 (1986-97)		100	100	
Mean number of years of schooling		11.5	11.5	
% of GNP spent on education		7.5	7.7[1]	
Females per 100 males in secondary school		94	91	
Women per 100 men in the labour force		82	83	

Other data
[1] = 1993

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.
Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.
Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING: The main responsibility for international co-operation for capacity building in developing countries rests with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its subordinate body, NORAD. Norway is participating in the OECD/DAC working party on Development Assistance and Environment, established in 1989. The party is showing leadership in shaping policies and strategic focus on the follow-up of UNCED and Agenda 21. This is again reflected in activities at the national level as for instance the work on implementation of EIAs (DAC guidelines on Aid and Environment) and presently the work on capacity development in environment in developing countries.	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state:
No information.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21:

- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, 1972)
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL, 1973)
- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE, 1979)
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (London, 1990)
- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention, 1992)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR, 1971)
- Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat (Bern, 1979)
- The Antarctic Treaty System with related conventions and protocols
- ECE-Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)
- Bilateral Environment Agreements with all neighbouring countries
- Framework Agreements on Development Co-operation with all partner countries
- WTO Agreement (Marrakesh, 1994)
- European Economic Area Agreement
- Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (New York, 1995)
- ILO Conventions on safety measures, health inspections etc.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

Agenda 21 Chapters		Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks
2.	International cooperation and trade	X				
3.	Combating poverty		X			
4.	Changing consumption patterns		X			
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability	X				
6.	Human health		X			
7.	Human settlements	X				
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making		X			
9.	Protection of the atmosphere		X			
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources		X			
11.	Combating deforestation		X			
12.	Combating desertification and drought		X			
13.	Sustainable mountain development		X			
14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development		X			
15.	Conservation of biological diversity		X			
16.	Biotechnology		X			
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources	X				
18.	Freshwater resources		X			
19.	Toxic chemicals		X			
20.	Hazardous wastes		X			
21.	Solid wastes	X				
22.	Radioactive wastes	X				
24.	Women in sustainable development	X				
25.	Children and youth	X				
26.	Indigenous people	X				
27.	Non-governmental organizations	X				
28.	Local authorities	X				
29.	Workers and trade unions	X				
30.	Business and industry	X				
31.	Scientific and technological community		X			
32.	Farmers		X			
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms	X				
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building		X			
35.	Science for sustainable development		X			
36.	Education, public awareness and training		X			
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building		X			
38.	International institutional arrangements	X				
39.	International legal instruments	X				
40.	Information for decision-making		X			

Additional Comments

In Norway, indicators are being developed for a number of purposes to improve information for decision-making. Norway is actively supporting the work with environmental indicators in the OECD. Biannually, The Nordic Council of Ministers produces a report on the state of the environment in the Nordic countries based on indicators. Nationally, indicators have replaces parts of the texts in the State budget proposal.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1989	1993	Latest 1996
Number of telephones in use per 100 inhabitants	49	54.2	55.6

Other data